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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An • indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

FRONT PAGE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Source Remarks on Israeli Elections *[MENA]* 2
'Abd-al-Majid Urges End to Blockade Against Iraq *[Baghdad Radio]* 2
Egypt Warns Israel on Camp David Accords *[AL-BAYAN 17 Jun]* 2

Palestinian Affairs

Reactions to Victory of Israel's Labor Party 2
PLO Ready for 'Direct Dialogue' *[Algiers VOP]* 2
'Arafat—Israelis 'Voted for Peace' *[Amman TV]* 2
'Arafat on Autonomy *[AL-RA'Y 25 Jun]* 3
Left Wing Reaction 'Conservative' *[JORDAN TIMES 25-26 Jun]* 3
Palestinian Leader Comments *[Paris TV]* 4
'Ashrawi—'Possibility' of Progress *[London MBC TV]* 5
'Ashrawi Expects 'Broader' Negotiations *[Algiers VOP]* 5
Editorial: Israel 'Seeking Change' *[AL-NAHAR 24 Jun]* 5
Labor's 'Test' at Negotiating Table *[Amman Radio]* 6
Al-Husayni on Status of Territories, Talks *[AL-ANWAR 17 Jun]* 6
Al-Husayni—Delegates Will Return to Territories *[MENA]* 9

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Further Arrangements Outlined for FIS Trial *[Algiers Radio]* 10
Chairman Boudiaf on Aims of Patriotic Rally *[Algiers TV]* 10
Council Evaluates Work on Rally *[Algiers TV]* 16

Egypt

Further Reportage on Incidents in Upper Egypt 16
Commanders Ordered To Uproot 'Extremists' *[MENA]* 16
'Fundamentalists' Held for Questioning *[AFP]* 16
Palestinian President 'Arafat Arrives for Visit *[MENA]* 16
Comments on Israeli Election Results *[AFP]* 17
Meets With Mubarak *[MENA]* 17
Mubarak, Omani Sultan on Israeli Election, Libya *[MENA]* 17
Editorial Praises Omani's Visit *[Cairo Radio]* 17
Reaction to Labor Party Win in Israeli Election 18
Musa on Rabin Peace Process Statement *[MENA]* 18
Commentary Sees 'Optimism' *[Cairo Radio]* 18
'Swift' Policy Changes 'Unlikely' *[Cairo Radio]* 18
Musa Cites Concern on South Africa Developments *[MENA]* 19
Consultative Council Speaker, Deputies Elected *[MENA]* 19

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arms Shipments to Sudan via Kenya Denied *[SPA]* 20

Yemen

Minister's Aide Killed By Security Patrol *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 22 Jun]* 20

IRAQ

Reportage on Alleged U.S. Burning of Iraqi Crops 21
U.S. Aircraft Resume 'Attacks' *[INA]* 21
Kurdish Party Condemns 'Ugly Crime' *[Baghdad Radio]* 21
WFC Asked to Condemn Crop Burning *[Baghdad Radio]* 21
Foreign Minister Receives Iranian Envoy *[INA]* 21
Assembly Speaker Meets French Front Delegation *[INA]* 21
Writer Attacks Security Council on Demarcation *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 20 Jun]* 21
Interior Minister Urges Visits to River Project *[Baghdad Radio]* 22
Rebel Radio Reports 'Jihad Operations' *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 22

ISRAEL

Rabin Holds News Conference on Election Results *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 23
Rabin Interviewed After Elections *[Jerusalem TV]* 27
Government To Be Set by 13 Jul *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Further Reportage Following Labor Election Victory 29
AL-FAJR Editor Sees 'Turning Point' *[Jerusalem International]* 29
Der'i on SHAS Partnership in Coalition *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Settlers Build Neighborhood in Reaction *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Settlers Council, NRP, Arabs Comment *[Jerusalem TV]* 29
Mubarak Considers Invitation to Rabin *[Jerusalem TV]* 30
Peres Interviewed on Peace Talks *[London MBC TV]* 30
Doves Oppose Right-Wing in Coalition *[Jerusalem International]* 30
Gorbachev To Help in Obtaining POW Information *[Jerusalem TV]* 30
Russian Space Delegation Visits Satellite Plant *[DAVAR 22 Jun]* 31
Profit Expected From IMI Move to Negev *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Authorities Allegedly Manipulating CPI *[HADASHOT 19 Jun]* 31

JORDAN

Stationing of UN Inspectors in Jordan Rejected *[JORDAN TIMES 25-26 Jun]* 32
Rejection of UN Troops Applauded *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 25 Jun]* 33
Foreign Minister Reacts to Labor Victory *[Amman Radio]* 33
Further on Minister's Reaction *[AL-RA'Y 25 Jun]* 34
Paper Warns Against Optimism *[AL-RA'Y 25]* 34
Representatives Condemn U.S. Burning Iraqi Crops *[AL-RA'Y 24 Jun]* 34
PLO Chairman 'Arafat Departs Amman 24 Jun *[Amman Radio]* 35
Iranian Official, Delegation Leave Amman 23 Jun *[PETRA-JNA]* 35
King Husayn Receives Turkish Minister of State *[Amman Radio]* 35

LEBANON

Nasrallah on U.S. Request To Rein In Hizballah *[Shanayh VOM]* 36
Reaction to Israeli Election Results Reported 36
Speaker—Likud, Labor 'Same Coin' *[Beirut Radio]* 36
Hizballah's Nasrallah Comments *[Shanayh VOM]* 37
Nasrallah—Hostage File 'Not Closed Yet' *[Tehran Radio]* 37
Israel Issues New Passes for Lebanese Workers *[Voice of the People]* 37
Commentary Views Islamist 'Onslaught' in Egypt *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 37

Al-Sulh—Elections Will 'Definitely' Be Held *[VOL]* 38
Fadlallah Urges Resistance to Cultural Challenges *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 38
Financial Situation Discussed With IMF Envoy 38
Meeting Held at Finance Ministry *[Beirut Radio]* 38
Al-Hirawi Receives Sha'lan *[Shanayh VOM]* 39

SYRIA

Prime Minister Asked To Form New Government *[Damascus Radio]* 40
Reaction to Labor Party Win in Israeli Elections 40
Al-Shar'—'No Regrets' for Shamir *[Damascus Radio]* 40
Commentary Views Labor Victory *[Damascus Radio]* 40
Daily Warns Against 'Hasty Conclusion' *[Damascus Radio]* 40
Minister of State Meets PRC Friendship Official *[Damascus Radio]* 41

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Mojaddedi Power Transfer Postponed to 29 Jun *[Kabul Radio]* 42
Mojaddedi Explains Change *[Tehran Radio]* 42
Ettehad-e Eslami Criticizes Mojaddedi *[Radio Message of Freedom]* 42
Mas'ud, Dostam Supporters Clash in Kabul City *[Radio Message of Freedom]* 42
Rival Groups Kabul Exchange Fire 24 Jun *[Islamabad Radio]* 43
Islamic Party Rejects 'Rumors' of Assault on Kabul *[Radio Message of Freedom]* 43

India

'Offensive' Pentagon Document Examined *[INDIAN EXPRESS 8 Jun]* 43
BJP's Advani Visits Tin Bigha Corridor *[Delhi Radio]* 44
Left Parties Differ on Presidential Candidates *[Delhi Radio]* 44
CPI-M To Back Congress-I Presidential Nominee *[Delhi Radio]* 44
Four 'Militants' Among Dead in Punjab Incidents *[Delhi Radio]* 45
Four Killed in Kashmir; 11 'Subversives' Arrested *[Delhi Radio]* 45
BJP Blames Pakistan for Attack on Hindu-Sikhs *[Delhi Radio]* 45

Iran

President Urges Judiciary To Maintain Vigilance *[Tehran Radio]* 45
Article Views President's 'White Revolution' *[AL-SAFIR 10 Jun]* 46
Cabinet Discusses Earthquake Damage Reconstruction *[Tehran Radio]* 47
Deputies Approved;, Jurists Elected to Majles *[Tehran Radio]* 47
Deputy Says Fourth Majles To Follow Imam's Line *[TEHRAN TIMES 14 Jun]* 47
Regime Said Watching Marivan Business Locations *[Voice of Iranian Kordestan]* 48
Regime Orders Some Kord Villages Evacuated *[Voice of Iranian Kordestan]* 49
New Qom Law Enforcement Commander Appointed *[Tehran Radio]* 49
Esfahan Refinery Output Higher Than Expected *[IRNA]* 49
Monthly Steel Production Triples in Three Years *[IRNA]* 49
Radio, TV Transmitters Inaugurated in Rasht, Yazd *[Tehran TV]* 49
Petrochemical Complex To Begin Operations in Feb *[IRNA]* 49
Commentary Criticizes U.S.-Qatar Defense Pact *[Tehran Radio]* 50
Newspaper Reporter Arrested on Espionage Charges *[AFP]* 50
Velayati Assesses 'Positive' ICO Session *[Tehran Radio]* 50
IAEO Refutes Israel's Nuclear Potential Charges *[IRNA]* 51
Iraq Executes 75 for Antigovernment Uprising *[IRNA]* 51
Envoy Flies To Baghdad To Discuss POW's *[IRNA]* 52
Asia-Pacific Socioeconomic Commission Convenes 52
Regional Cooperation To Be Discussed *[IRNA]* 52
Ne'matzadeh Makes Speech *[IRNA]* 52
Industrial Agreement Signed With China *[Tehran TV]* 53
Postwar Reconstruction Discussed With UN Envoy *[IRNA]* 53

Mashhad, Tajikistan Sign Fiber Plant Accord *[IRNA]* 54
Sarakhs Planned To Be 'Major Economic Pole' *[IRNA]* 54
Article Views 'Great Dependence' on German Imports *[AL-SAFIR 11 Jun]* 54
Envoy on Mediation Efforts for Azerbaijan, Armenia *[TEHRAN TIMES 16 Jun]* 55
Women's Delegation Leaves for Visit To Azerbaijan *[Tehran Radio]* 55
Agriculture Minister Attends World Food Council *[Tehran Radio]* 56
IRNA's Nasiri Elected News Pool Chairman *[IRNA]* 56
Conference Topics Noted *[Tehran TV]* 56
Commentary Views Israeli Labor Party Victory *[Tehran Radio]* 57
Afghanistan as 'Master of Its Own Destiny' Viewed
[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY EDITION 11 Jun] 57
Reports on Death of Afghanistan's Dostam Viewed *[Tehran Radio]* 58

Nepal & Bhutan

Government To Sign UN Plan on Narcotics Control *[AFP]* 58

Pakistan

Sharif-Rao Rio Talks Lowered 'Negative Impact' *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
Sharif Justifies Army Action in Sindh *[Pakistan TV]* 59
Sharif Receives Afghanistan's Rabbani in Islamabad *[Pakistan TV]* 59
Rockets Fired at Afghan Refugee Camp *[AFP]* 59
Sharif Receives UAE President's Envoy, Message *[Islamabad Radio]* 59

Afghanistan

Afghan interim council leader Sebghatollah Mojaddedi postponed his transfer of power to the Jehad Council until 29 June, stating that not enough Council members could be present on 25 June, the date on which the transfer ceremony was scheduled, Kabul radio reported.

Israel

In a press conference held 24 June, Labor Chairman Yitzhaq Rabin said he wanted to establish a government "founded on the broadest possible basis," adding that "we invite whoever is ready to join a government based on our policies," Jerusalem radio reported. In response to a question he said: "I want a stable government, not a minority government. I prefer this, but all the options are open." In a separate broadcast, Jerusalem radio reported that "Labor hopes that Rabin will be able to present his new government by 13 July."

Jordan

The government rejected the stationing of UN inspectors to monitor the enforcement of anti-Iraq sanctions, THE JORDAN TIMES reported. Jordan was being "singled out and targeted" while neighboring countries were violating sanctions, and the presence of UN inspectors on Jordanian territory would constitute a "clear violation" of sovereignty, according to an official source cited by the paper. The government will make efforts to enforce the sanctions more rigorously by "plugging whatever loopholes there might be," according to the paper.

Palestinian Affairs

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, called on Israel's Labor Party to show its commitment to the peace process by "initiating an immediate halt to settlements" and "carrying out a comprehensive withdrawal from all fronts," Algiers VOP reported. Meanwhile, in an interview with Amman TV, PLO Chairman 'Arafat said the Labor victory demonstrated that "the Israeli people have voted for peace." The new government "must move in the direction of real peace" and "not make maneuvers or fabricate excuses to evade the discussion sessions under false pretexts," he added in a report cited by AL-RA'Y.

Syria

Prime Minister al-Zu'bi tendered his resignation, Damascus radio reported. President al-Asad accepted the resignation and asked al-Zu'bi to form a new government.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Source Remarks on Israeli Elections

NC2406125592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1152 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jun (MENA)—A responsible Arab League source stated that the Yitzhaq Rabin-led Labor Party's victory in the Israeli elections and the formation of a coalition government with the leftist Meretz Party prove the failure of Yitzhaq Shamir's Likud Bloc to overcome a rigid mentality and move toward peace.

The source said the Israeli citizen is fed up living in a state of no war and no peace and feels the time has come to give priority to the principle of Middle East peace. The source added that the Arab League strongly supports the efforts to establish peace and stability in the region.

It hoped the Israeli Labor Party will realize that a just peace is based on recognizing the Palestinian people's just rights and on halting the settlements as the ideal way to achieving historic conciliation between the Arabs and Israel.

The source stated that this formula is based on several fundamental principles: land in return for peace; a halt to settlements in the occupied Arab territories; and recognizing the Palestinian people's just rights and their right to establish an independent state on national Palestinian soil. The source added that the formula is also based on returning the occupied Golan Heights to its mother land, Syria.

'Abd-al-Majid Urges End to Blockade Against Iraq

JN2506064892 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0300 GMT 25 Jun 92

[Text] Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid stated that Iraq has every right to demand that the blockade against its people be lifted, now that it has accepted and observed all UN resolutions. During a news conference in the Romanian capital yesterday, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid described lifting the blockade as a human demand. This unjustifiable practice must stop, he said.

The Arab League secretary general noted the immense harm being inflicted on the Iraqi people as a result of the blockade. We sense this deprivation and seek to end it, he stated. He added that the Arab League adopted a positive position toward this issue.

Egypt Warns Israel on Camp David Accords

JN1906154492 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 17 Jun 92 pp 1, 13

[Excerpts] Capitals—AL-BAYAN and agencies: Egypt has served notice to Israel that an Israeli-Egyptian confrontation developing into a full-scale war would, as far as Egypt is concerned, render the Camp David accords null and void. In statements to AL-BAYAN in Damascus, informed Arab diplomatic sources added: President Husni Mubarak's visit to Syria at the height of the Israeli attacks on Lebanon and the rising tempo of Israeli threats toward Damascus was primarily to make the point that Egypt stands by Syria. [passage omitted]

According to the sources, Egypt communicated to Israel via diplomatic channels that if Israel widened the scope of its attacks in Lebanon and a confrontation with Syria developed into a full-scale war, Cairo would cease to be bound by the Camp David accords. On no account will Egypt accept Syria coming under a premeditated Israeli offensive, since relations between Egypt and Syria are such that they outweigh any agreement Cairo may have with a third country. Cairo, the sources added, would be prepared to sacrifice the peace agreements with Israel, since these do not require Egypt to walk out on its brothers if they are targeted for aggression, not to mention Egypt's pan-Arab and national responsibilities. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Reactions to Victory of Israel's Labor Party

PLO Ready for 'Direct Dialogue'

LD2406192292 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, has announced that the PLO leadership is ready to begin a direct dialogue with the new Israeli government in order to give the peace process and negotiations a strong impetus.

He added that the Labor Party is now called upon to emphasize its seriousness about the peace process by initiating an immediate halt to settlements and carrying out a comprehensive withdrawal from all fronts.

'Arafat—Israelis 'Voted for Peace'

JN2406182592 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Jordan TV political affairs correspondent Kassab Samawi in Amman "today"—recorded]

[Text] [Samawi] To start with, how did you receive the news about the victory of the Labor Party in the Israeli elections?

['Arafat] In fact, what is important to me is that the Israeli people have voted for peace. This is what we have been looking forward to. This forces the next government to concentrate on real peace.

[Samawi] Do you want to send a Palestinian peace message to Yitzhaq Rabin?

['Arafat] No, I send a message to the Israeli people.

[Samawi] What do you say to them?

['Arafat] I say that peace requires courage more than the courage needed by war. If there is no De Gaulle to have peace with, an Israeli De Gaulle, then at least let us have a De Klerk who freed my friend Nelson Mandela, and courageously conducted the successful referendum despite the attempts of the racists. We began this peace process on the basis of President Bush's initiative which calls for land for peace and the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338. This means withdrawal from all the occupied territories, including holy Jerusalem, and for the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people in accordance with international legitimacy and its resolutions. It calls for security for all; for our children and their children.

[Samawi] Do you think that in light of the changes in the Israeli arena there is a need to hold a new meeting soon for the four Arab delegations taking part in the peace talks?

['Arafat] We continue to have consultations. The Palestinian delegation is still here and it was having a meeting this morning, and it had a meeting last evening. Before this, for the past three or four days, the Jordanian-Palestinian meetings have been going on. We will have contacts with our Syrian and Lebanese brothers in this respect. We have a date for holding another quadripartite meeting.

[Samawi] This is right. Your Excellency the president, you are leaving Amman with safety. Do you want to say something on this occasion?

['Arafat] First of all, I want to say thanks, thanks from deep in my heart, thanks with all words of devotion and appreciation to his majesty the king and to the brotherly Jordanian people, with whom we share the sweet and bitter things of life. Thanks to his highness the crown prince, to the Jordanian Government, headed by my brother al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir and his brothers in the government. Thanks to my brothers at al-Husayn Medical Center, of whom I said that his majesty the king has not built a medical center with buildings and equipment, but the most important thing—human beings. I say thanks, thanks, and thanks.

'Arafat on Autonomy

JN2506080592 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Jun 92 p 26

[Excerpts] Amman, PETRA—In his first reaction to the Labor Party's victory in the Israeli elections, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat said: What is of concern to us is that the Israeli public has voted for peace. We have always been looking for such a development. This means that the next government must move in the direction of real peace and not make maneuvers and fabricate excuses to evade the discussion sessions under false pretexts.

'Arafat made these statements during an interview with Jordan Television prior to leaving Amman yesterday. [passage omitted]

When asked about the Labor Party's rise to power in Israel and what impact this might have on the peace process, President 'Arafat said: Let us wait and see. However, the Israeli public's votes undoubtedly will have a significant effect on any future government. Peace is an important issue which needs struggle and action to be achieved; we mean a real and genuine peace.

Regarding the recent meeting in Amman between the Palestinian delegation and the Palestinian leadership, President 'Arafat said: Everyone knows that this delegation represents all Palestinians, both inside and outside the occupied territories. We are proud of both the leaders and the people there.

He noted that discussion during the meeting focused on issues related to the peace process in general.

Commenting on autonomy and Palestinian elections in the occupied territories which, it was announced, will be held later this year, President 'Arafat said: The matter does not depend on the Israeli Government's will or desire; it is based on the letter of assurances and the letters of invitation to the peace process. These state that arrangements for autonomy should begin one year after the start of the Arab and Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. There must be the freedom to hold elections and international protection for our people. This is what we were offered, and this is what we want to see implemented.

When asked about the Palestinian intifadah, 'Arafat affirmed that it will continue until the end of Israeli occupation. [passage omitted]

Left Wing Reaction 'Conservative'

JN2506083692 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25-26 Jun 92 pp 1, 5

[By Sa'd Hattar with agency dispatches]

[Text] Amman—The stunning rise to power of the Labour Party in Israel's general elections Tuesday drew mixed reactions within the ranks of the Palestine Liberation Organisation ranging from guarded optimism to indifference.

While the PLO's mainstream welcomed Labour's unexpected victory, the organisation's leftist wings took a more conservative stance.

"The PLO leadership is set to establish a direct dialogue with the new Israeli government in order to push forward the peace process," said Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO's information department.

Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh, however, said that Labour "should now prove its sincerity regarding the peace process

through freezing the Jewish settlements in the occupied territories and accepting the principle of territorial withdrawal on all fronts."

Nayif Hawatimah, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), termed Labour's victory as "a step towards the search for peace."

"It is a step towards the left in which the Israeli voter pulled the rug from underneath Likud and its adamant rejection to any opportunity for a political settlement in the region," Mr. Hawatimah told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Hawatimah echoed 'Abd-Rabbuh's call for establishing a "direct dialogue with the Labour Party in spite of Labour's double-faceted approach.... hawkish and dovish."

"Much is pinned now on Palestinian attitude and Arab action," he said. "It is high time to reorganise the Palestinian order within the PLO and bolster our national unity."

Salih Ra'fat, spokesman for the 'Abd-Rabbuh wing of the DFLP, expressed hope that Labour leader Yitzhaq Rabin's cabinet would "be peace-seeking and cunning-free as envisaged by the Israeli voter."

Mr. Ra'fat noted that PLO leaders in Amman were in direct contact with Palestinians in occupied Jerusalem in order to formulate positions based on polling developments. Simultaneously, the Palestinians were in direct contact with "peace forces" in Israel.

'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, a member of the politburo of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and of the PLO executive committee, said Labour's ascend to power was bound to "embarrass the Palestinian negotiator."

Mr. Malluh said the Labour Party would handle the peace talks with "further flexibility rather than the outgoing Likud," and such a shift would push the Palestinian negotiator into a new reality in the U.S.-brokered peace talks.

"The Labour Pary's flexible approach to the negotiations would place the Palestinian and Arab side under heavy international pressures despite the fact Labour and Likud are identical in substance," he said.

Hamas, the fundamentalist movement which opposes the peace process, said it had identical views regarding Labour and Likud.

"They are both two facets of the same coin; Labour poses further threat to the Palestinian cause," said Hamas spokesman in Jordan Ibrahim Ghawshah.

Mr. Ghawshah underlined that Mr. Rabin's trend is "hawkish" and the he was the one who led Israeli forces into Jerusalem in 1967 and the one who ordered the "ironfist policy" to uproot the intifadah.

Senior PLO official Bassam Abu-Sharif said he was ready to open talks on Middle East peace with Mr. Rabin.

"I am ready to meet now with Mr. Rabin to try to establish overall peace in the Middle East not only for our generation but also for the Israeli and Palestinian generations of the future," Mr. Abu-Sharif said in an interview with Radio France-Info.

Speaking from the PLO's headquarters, Mr. Abu-Sharif added: "I am sure that if Mr. Rabin begins negotiations with Palestinian leaders, the problem will be solved."

Palestinians in the occupied territories saw a change for the better Wednesday in the prospect of Mr. Rabin as Israel's prime minister.

They hailed the defeat of Likud, expressing hope that Middle East peace talks would move forward under a Rabin-led government.

Hanna Sinyurah, editor of the AL-FAJR newspaper in Arab East Jerusalem, predicted "positive developments in the near future."

"I expect that chance will include a peace process that will move at a fast pace," said Mr. Sinyurah.

Palestinian Leader Comments

LD2406202192 Paris Antenne-2 Television Network in French 1800 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Telephone interview with Saleh 'Abd al-Jawad, representative of the "Palestinians of the Interior," in Israel, by program announcer Vruno Masure in studio—live]

[Text] [Masure] We are on the line now with University Professor Saleh 'Abd al-Jawad, one of the Palestinian leaders representing the Palestinians of the Interior. My first question: Are you expecting Mr. Rabin's future government to quickly put an end to colonization?

[al- Jawad] Yes, first of all we expect Rabin to be very very clear about this. He should freeze colonization, that is not to build new settlements, and also completely stop the infrastructure work already started by the Likud. Second, to make gestures toward the Palestinian people, above all toward the PLO, that is to recognize the Palestinian people's legitimate right to self- determination and perhaps open a dialogue with the PLO.

[Masure] To be precise, last Saturday Mr. Rabin told our correspondent Charles Henderlin that the installation of an autonomous regime for the Palestinians is one of our first priorities. Are you satisfied with this statement or did you expect more to start with?

[al-Jawad] No, we are quite in agreement with autonomy as an intermediary stage, but one which should be immediately followed by a definitive solution to the Palestinian problem. However, Mr. Rabin must make

gestures toward the Palestinians. He should put an end to the repression extensively used by Mr. Shamir, above all ending colonization.

[Masure] But on their side, could the Palestinians conceive halting the Intifada, at least temporarily, each of them thus showing proof of good faith?

[al-Jawad] I think that with regard to halting the Intifada, if one reaches a political solution accepted by the PLO and the Palestinian people, we are quite willing to envisage halting the Intifada and open a dialogue between us and Israel.

[Masure] To be quite exact, and this will be my last question: Mr. Rabin, who is even considered to be a hardliner within the Labor Party, said in 1988: The Palestinians are not terrorists but nationalists. Do you hope to have a truly constructive dialogue with him in the coming days?

[al-Jawad] I believe we entertain hopes, we are relieved that Likud is going. Now, will Rabin rely on the Israeli Left, above all on the new generation within the Labor Party, or on the contrary will he turn toward an alliance with the Right-wing religious parties? Everything is yet to be decided.

[Masure] Thank you for this first interview. I remind listeners that this was a live interview from Jerusalem.

'Ashrawi—'Possibility' of Progress

NC2406195292 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Jun 92

["Telephone interview' with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesman for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, by unidentified MBC correspondent on 24 June, place not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Ashrawi] First, the election results mean that a possibility exists for progress, or for a negotiation engagement, over fundamental issues. It also means that preliminary confidence- building steps may be taken, which the Labor Party had proposed in the past. For instance, the Labor Party proposed a freeze on settlements, non-intervention in the Palestinian delegation's affairs, comprehensive Palestinian legislative elections, entering into extensive and speedy negotiations, and a swift transitional period for the transfer of authority. All these are Labor Party promises. The real test, however, comes now. Will the Labor Party fulfill the demands of the Israeli voter and its promises?

[Correspondent] With the new political developments, do you expect a change in the Israeli policy toward the PLO?

['Ashrawi] It was a clear development when Rabin said he does not object, or that he has no control over, who the Palestinian delegation meets with and that he will negotiate with that delegation. I believe, even expect, that the Labor Party will abrogate the unjust law prohibiting meetings with the PLO and that it will not interfere in domestic Palestinian affairs regarding the Palestinian delegation's relations with the Palestinian leadership.

'Ashrawi Expects 'Broader' Negotiations

LD2406193592 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Sister Hanan 'Ashrawi announced that she expects the new Israeli Government to inject some progress into the peace process and show good intentions such as a halt to the settlements and the introduction of direct Palestinian elections.

Ashrawi thinks that if the Israelis have withdrawn their confidence from the Likud Party and its extremist and antipeace policy and decided to entrust the opposition, this has been done for the peace process to succeed. However, she adds that we do not expect a magic wand and an immediate solution. We have difficult negotiations ahead of us. Nevertheless, the negotiations will begin and will be free from the destructive operations carried out by the Likud Party.

Ashrawi expects a broader level of negotiations because the officials have stated that they are ready to negotiate with any Palestinian.

Editorial: Israel 'Seeking Change'

TA2406153792 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 24 Jun 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Do the Israeli People Really Want Change?"]

[Text] The initial impression of the results of the Israeli parliamentary elections indicate that the Israeli people are seeking change and want to move away from the ultra-right to the center. Since 1977 power has been, one way or another, in the hands of the ultra-right, led by the Likud. Yesterday the Likud, as well as the orthodox religious parties, retreated while the situation of the Israeli left-wing parties improved. If these results mean that Labor will form the new government without the need for a coalition with the ultra-right parties, it will indicate that power in Israel has returned to Labor, which governed Israel from its inception until 1977. This will also indicate that the Israeli people have returned to the old Zionist concept, whose strongest pillar was reliance on the West's friendship for the sake of guaranteeing Israel's stability and security.

The Likud, which has managed to hold on to power since 1977, was extremely narrow-minded and was interested neither in world public opinion nor in Israeli-U.S. friendship. However, Labor, headed by Rabin, has a broader and clearer perspective of Israel's place and status in the world and is striving to the utmost to maintain a special relationship with Washington.

If Labor succeeds in forming a new government in coalition with the left-wing parties, Rabin will visit Washington within a few weeks not only to restore the traditional relations with the United States but also to support President Bush in the upcoming U.S. elections. Rabin might be able to influence the American Jewish vote in favor of President Bush.

It is no secret that in Shamir's era the Israeli Government went to great lengths to derail the peace process by pursuing a policy of procrastination and by provoking the Arab parties taking part in the negotiations, especially the Palestinian side. We do not wish to go very far in our expectations but Rabin, the former Israeli ambassador in Washington, will be able to obtain the $10 billion U.S. loan guarantees the granting of which Washington made conditional on a settlement freeze in the occupied territories, for in his election campaign Rabin agreed to freeze settlement activity.

Although Rabin shows some flexibility in his positions to placate the United States and the West, this does not mean that he will bend over in accepting solutions that signify withdrawal or in accepting Security Council resolutions calling for withdrawal from the occupied territories and recognition of the Palestinians' right to self-determination. Rabin adheres to Shamir's principles advocating non-withdrawal and rejection of a Palestinian state and the PLO. He is committed to implementing self-rule for the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The new government's efforts will definitely be aimed at improving the deteriorating economic situation in Israel and creating new job opportunities in the aftermath of an 11-percent unemployment rate. All these require grave decisions to break the current deadlock in Israeli politics.

Labor's 'Test' at Negotiating Table

JN2406125192 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] In a statement to our radio, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, has said that the results of the Israeli elections demonstrate the failure of the Likud's policy of continuing repression in the occupied territories and rejecting the peace process. He noted that the Labor Party's victory is a big step, but the test will be at the negotiating table.

[Begin 'Abd-Rabbuh recording] It is clear that these results show first the failure of the Likud policy—the policy of repression, keeping the territories, rejecting the entire peace process, and opposing the international legitimacy resolutions. This policy has had a great impact on Israel's international status and this was also reflected on the local level.

The advent of the Labor Party is a big step, but we have to examine the real stands of the Labor Party's policy and the test will be at the negotiating table. We believe that the real start of serious negotiations is by recognizing the basic rights of the Palestinian people, withdrawal from all fronts, and reaching a just peace based on the resolutions of international legitimacy.

The PLO has always been ready to talk and meet directly with the Israeli leadership. This was continuously rejected by the Likud in an attempt to ignore the presence of the Palestinian people, their unity, and their rights.

We believe that breaking the political stalemate resulting from the Likud policy during the past stage now requires a move toward serious discussion on the practical bases to accomplish a just peace based on UN resolutions.

We do not want to be too optimistic or plant delusions. The issue now depends on the stand of the new government in Israel. Does it want to seize the opportunity which was demanded by the Israeli voter to quickly adopt a new path toward peace other than the one adopted by the Likud government—the path of annexation, settlement, and continued repression and terrorism? The first step along this new path will begin when this government announces the immediate and total halt of settlement activity in the occupied territories, particularly holy Jerusalem. Thus, we can be certain that there will be a new policy in deeds rather than words. [end recording]

Al-Husayni on Status of Territories, Talks

NC2406110692 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 17 Jun 92 p 9

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, adviser to the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, by George Saliba; date, place not given]

[Text] [Saliba] What is the true political status of the intifadah in the occupied territories and how is the struggle faring?

[Al-Husayni] After several years and violent battles with the Israelis, the intifadah was in a crisis, even before the Gulf crisis. This crisis resulted mostly from our success in shaking and weakening the Israeli authorities in most areas during our struggle with them. At the same time, however, the Israeli authorities have not allowed us, through this struggle, to establish our authority on the ground. We have entered a specific stage following the emergence of violations and excesses in some areas. We have started to implement political reforms that are themselves controversial among Palestinians. All these things brought us, immediately before the Gulf crisis, to the idea that we had to stop and reassess the situation. But the Gulf crisis and its aftermath delayed the reassessment process. The Gulf crisis resulted in negative consequences for the Palestinian position. Now you find us—following the start of the peace process in which we have restored balance among Palestinians—facing a new phase of assessment. This phase should have started

before the Gulf crisis. The consequences of this crisis and political developments in the region will be included in this assessment phase.

Every political party in the occupied territories is aware of this issue. There is a specific concept that I believe has now become clear to everyone; namely, that the political battle is two- pronged. First is field action, and everyone must cooperate in confronting the occupation. Second is the political process. Some believe in it and some do not, but either way unity and coordination among the forces involved in field action ensures the success of the political process, or at least prevents any damage to it. The safety valve for the political process is joint field action; what we call national unity.

[Saliba] That is a brief description of the internal situation. How does Israel benefit from Arab mistakes? What are these mistakes?

[Al-Husayni] The first Arab mistake is inequality.

[Saliba] What inequality?

[Al-Husayni] Between the Arab parties. The absence of a single, coordinated Arab stand is the first thing Israel can use. The second thing Israel can exploit is our failure to differentiate between the internal Arab political line and the international one, and our inability to formulate an Arab policy to address the issue successfully and strongly. We are still muddling between these two things. Maybe it is because we have not yet defined the nature of this stage, which in our view is not the stage for a historical or ideological solution but the stage for a political solution.

[Saliba] The pragmatic one?

[Al-Husayni] It is the stage for political solution. Consequently, the internal and international Arab political stand should deal with a political solution at this stage.

[Saliba] Can you outline the main features of your policy at the domestic and international levels?

[Al-Husayni] We are on the threshold of a new international phase with its own features and rules. One of the main assumptions of our policy is that there will be no place for small powers in the coming stage. Small powers like Britain, France, Germany, and Italy will no longer be viable in the coming century. This is why Europe is seeking unity. We need to do the same thing in our region; we have to undertake regional cooperation. This is the first characteristic. As for the second, a region like ours will not be able to pursue military solutions during this unipolar phase—I do not know for how long. Political solutions are becoming the standard procedure.

This means the Israeli regional role must be specified. We tell the Israelis they must choose between being part of this region, and therefore playing a significant role if they can integrate and respect the interests, needs, and aspirations of the Middle East; or remaining an alienated and detached part of the region, linked to Europe. In other words, they have to choose between being an insignificant part of Europe or a significant part of the Middle East. This is our message to the Israelis and this is what we are offering them.

Israel should strive to be part of the Middle East. This requires Israel as well as the Arab states to change many of their established laws. Israel, in particular, should change its racist laws. This region must be an open one. Our future security structure must be based on common interests rather than on a balance of power, which is really a balance of fear. There can be no peace while there is fear. What we are seeking is something similar to the European model, in which we can eventually achieve true freedom of movement. I, as a Palestinian, should be able to choose my place of work, whether it in Damascus, Beirut, Haifa, or Jerusalem. This can only be achieved through regional cooperation.

[Saliba] Could you fill us in on your relations with the United States? Exactly how far have you gone with the United States regarding solutions you find suitable?

[Al-Husayni] The world today is a world of interests. We have managed to determine and discern what U.S. interests in the region are. Now that its control of the region has been secured, the U.S. is seeking stability; it wants stability in this region. As Palestinians, we know there can be no stability in the region unless Palestinian interests are taken into consideration. We possess some power and have a role in a certain equation that means even if we are too weak to impose a specific solution, there is no doubt that we possess enough power to obstruct any solution that is not in our interests. This means that until it bears fruit, our power is negative. In order to be fruitful, our policy must be positive. In other words, we must tell the United States that we are interested in stability in the region, that we are working for it, and that we are ready to pay the price provided our interests in points "one," "two," and "three" are taken into consideration. Otherwise, there will be no stability.

[Saliba] What are these points?

[Al-Husayni] The Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of a Palestinian national homeland. It is clear to us that our homeland will be established on part, but not all, of the Palestinian territories. So let us speak within the context of U.S. policy in this region; that is, let us be part of this policy, which speaks of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza for all Palestinians, wherever they are. This does not necessarily mean that Palestinians should leave their homes to move into this new state, but it should be clear to them that the possibility, opportunity, and right exist to move into this state if they wish. In fact, this will give the Palestinians and their current hosts around the world some sense of security and stability. It means that my presence as a Palestinian in a certain area is not something imposed on me and the others, but an option that suits my interests and the interests of others.

[Saliba] What about the U.S. Administration's position? Did it give you specific advice?

[Al-Husayni] Perhaps what the Americans keep repeating is for us to approach the peace process, or the political process, by dealing with present circumstances, and by finding an area where we could move forward to try to improve the circumstances without setting preconditions. This means that wherever we are, we must move toward our targets without setting preconditions. We may work out targets and plans and outline how we will deal with the others, but we may not make this a precondition. I could say that this, in fact, is the U.S. stand.

[Saliba] Israel has tried to give the Palestinians some degree of control over the human element, but not land or water. How much have you achieved in terms of a basic solution?

[Al-Husayni] This is indeed a very important and basic issue. It is clear that our concept of the transitional period of autonomy emphasizes control over the human element as well as the land.

[Saliba] And water?

[Al-Husayni] And water, of course. Despite its rigidness, the Israeli stand is weak. When we come to the essentials and discuss details with some future government that has the slightest desire to achieve real peace, their political situation will be very weak. Eventually, they will have to admit that we are entitled to exercise control over the land; the land and what is on it and not just the human element.

[Saliba] Judging by your experience with the Israelis, with whom you live, do you expect a far-reaching and significant strategic change at the regional level if the Labor Party wins the elections?

[Al-Husayni] We are not talking about a strategic change, but rather a very clear tactical change. For example, in the early stage they will show more flexibility in their policy on the transitional period than the "Likud." Our negotiations with the "Alignment" [Labor Party] over a final solution will still be difficult, however; as difficult as with the Likud. On the other hand, the Likud proposal is an ideological one, while the Alignment's is security-oriented, and hence more pragmatic. This will give the negotiations a different nature, even though both parties seek the same thing. One wants to seize the land on ideological grounds while the other wants to seize it on security grounds. They have different tactics, however.

[Saliba] Are your dealings with the Alignment better than with the Likud?

[Al-Husayni] Our negotiations with the Alignment will certainly be long, but we will ultimately win. It is clear to us that we can win gradually. The results will therefore appear gradually. Negotiations with the Likud, on the other hand, will leave no room for a gradual victory; the results will come out all at once at the end of the negotiations, either yes or no.

[Saliba] Going beyond this point, you are undoubtedly aware of what Lebanon, specifically south Lebanon, is facing. How do you see the effects of this on the Israelis themselves? Will this help the Likud in the election campaign or is it not part of the calculation?

[Al-Husayni] The Alignment focused on the domestic political and economic situation at the start of the election campaign. The Likud was not happy with this because it was in power and the ruling party is always blamed for current shortcomings. The Likud realized this at the start of the campaign and began to escalate the security situation to raise the security issue with the Israeli electorate. The Likud is more capable than the Alignment of presenting a decisive stand on the issues of security, dangers on the borders, and dangers threatening the country. When security issues are raised in an elections campaign, the party with the more decisive stand is the victor. Likud's stand is more decisive than the Alignment's. The latter's stand is regarded, at least by the media, as middle of the road. Thus we see that the Likud is the party seeking to escalate the situation to reach a stage where public opinion is prepared for an Israeli attack. This will allow it to achieve victories, even if temporary ones, and thus help it in the coming elections.

[Saliba] In view of this, do you believe that the Likud considers the resistance operations in the south an excuse to carry out an attack?

[Al-Husayni] The Israeli elections are not everything in the world. Not every county's interests are dependent on the Israeli elections. Resisting occupation is everyone's legitimate and obvious right. Even though it is a right, though, it is not an obligation. In other words, resistance can take forms other than armed resistance. I cannot tell our brothers in south Lebanon how to deal with the occupation there. But the occupation must be confronted in the end, and the occupiers must suffer as much as possible, either through fighting or other means. In every area, those in charge have to define the best ways to make the other party suffer as much as possible. It will help if we draw up very specific and clear plans that differentiate between resistance and what could be called terrorism. If we allow the two issues to intermingle, then there will be room for doubts by some people.

[Saliba] We know that there are independent U.S. contacts with the Palestinian side. We also know that there are independent U.S. contacts with Israel, Syria, and Iran. When can these contacts connect? What will happen then?

[Al-Husayni] All U.S. contacts with the Middle East region are linked to the negotiations. We believe that when the Israeli elections are over, and a new government is formed with the ability and desire to continue with the negotiations and tackle the basic issue, then the U.S. role in the process will increase in its capacity as

co-sponsor of the conference, together with Russia. The U.S. role will increase through contacts with the various parties. We might then move from this bilateral process to one that is more than bilateral. This will bring about a new situation that will require an Arab stand calling for an international conference in lieu of bilateral talks.

Al-Husayni—Delegates Will Return to Territories

NC2406114892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jun (MENA)—Faysal al-Husayni, head of the advisory committee of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, has affirmed that the members of the Palestinian delegation who met with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat in Amman last week will return to the occupied territories regardless of Israeli decisions and measures against them.

In a statement to the Cairo-based AL-MUSAWWAR magazine, to be published in its Friday issue, he said that no matter how contradictory the statements of Israeli officials are regarding the measures they will take against the members of the Palestinian delegation, "We will return, because the decision to return is our own and Israel has no right to interfere."

He said that the confusion surrounding Israeli statements goes back to the difficulty in justifying the illogical and unnatural Israeli law. He pointed out that the meeting was not intended to influence the Israeli elections.

Al-Husayni pointed out that the meeting the Palestinian delegation members had with the U.S. ambassador in Amman took place after their meeting with 'Arafat, and they discussed numerous issues.

Algeria

Further Arrangements Outlined for FIS Trial

LD2506011592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Report by correspondent Mohsen Slimani]

[Text] The biggest-ever trial in the history of Algeria will be held at a court martial starting this Saturday [26 June]. It seems, according to its organizers, that all conditions have been met to hold it, contrary to a number of reports in papers asserting that the trial will be postponed. The lawyers of the seven Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leaders have been to the Blida court to finalize the procedures that will control access during the trial. We noticed that lawyer (Nabil Bouaita), who lives in Paris and who was, as it is known, the lawyer for Klaus Barbie, will be among those will be able to attend the trial of the FIS leaders as an observer.

We also have learned that (Bouaita), as well as other lawyers, also have made arrangements to receive Jacques Verges who, according to reports in papers, will be attending as an observer.

However, according to reports from informed sources, the trial will be held in the absence of international bodies and personalities, as well as the foreign press. The same sources have added that the decision was made because the trial involves only Algerians and in order to avoid the problem of allowing foreigners into a military facility, a matter that would contravene the security measures followed by military facilities. However, the question remains: Will the military authorities allow Verges to attend or not?

On the other hand, the FIS leaders' lawyers have asserted the need to allow nongovernmental international human rights organizations and the foreign press to attend.

As far as domestic organizations and personalities are concerned, we have learned that a number of well-known names will be attending the trial, including Benyoussef Benkhedda, leader of the Oumma Party; Mr. Razzek Bara, chairman of the National Monitoring Center for Human Rights; and Algeria's human rights organizations.

As far as the witnesses, who number about 100 and who will be brought before the president of the court, are concerned, some sources close to the court martial have told us that Mr. Abdekader Hacheni [an FIS leader] has been brought from Sekadji prison to Blida to be a witness in the case.

Another personality who was very active within the ranks of the disbanded FIS, particularly during the campaign for the 26 December vote, is also on the witness list: Colonel Mohamed Said.

An important number of officials in charge of economic establishments also are included on the witness list. Just to remind you, some 70 officials in charge of economic establishments were questioned, based on the fact that the economic losses sustained during the indefinite political strike [called for by the FIS] were estimated at 77 billion dinars.

Chairman Boudiaf on Aims of Patriotic Rally

LD2306084192 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 2057 GMT 22 Jun 92

[News conference by Mohamed Boudiaf, chairman of the Higher State Council, with unidentified correspondents, in Algiers on 22 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Boudiaf] [Words indistinct] I made a call for the establishment of the Patriotic Rally. As I promised you, here I am now before you to answer your questions. First of all I would like to offer some clarifications regarding the Patriotic Rally in a brief preliminary statement. In this context, I would like to point out that the initial reactions that were recorded after my call were encouraging and proved my determination. Support committees have been set up throughout the national territory and many citizens have expressed their wish to join the rally.

There have been questions on the need for the Patriotic Rally, its points of reference, its composition and objectives, and on the endeavor it would assume at the level of dialogue and relations with the existing political parties. Some of these questions and appraisals are correct and objective, while others are tendentious and lack objectivity. Therefore, it seems to me that the following clarifications are essential:

1. Why a Patriotic Rally? The Patriotic Rally is a framework within which all those who believe in the resources and capabilities of the Algerian people will meet. The Patriotic Rally aims at organizing a constructive dialogue to arrive at a national mobilization under the banner of "Algeria, First and Foremost." It would be illusory and unreasonable to think of finding solutions to the grave problems facing the country without the work of the authority being supported and propagated by the work of the Algerians who have joined the Patriotic Rally's support committees, irrespective of their political affiliation and their social status and standing. These committees should provide room for expression, for exchanging views, and for participation.

2. The terms of reference of the Patriotic Rally: Algeria is today feeling that it is going through a situation marked by underlying discontent and acute deprivation, by some sort of concern, lack of confidence, and the disappearance of some values on which every modern society and state are based. These values are fundamental, and they are very far from the elements of the identity which, to some, regrettably constitutes a basis for outdated subjects of debate. [passage omitted]

This Patriotic Rally aims to bring Algerians together. It is a rally for Algerians, because since independence until

now Algeria has lived through two phases. The first phase was the single-party, and we know what the effect of the single-party was on society. And, since 1988 up to now, Algeria has lived democracy. Those who were not used to democracy were (?polluting) it from day one with the help of parties and money until their number became about 60 or 70 [political parties].

We said that these values are fundamental and their status is very far from the factors of identity which, regrettably, form, for some, elements for an outdated argument. Others call for [word indistinct] which some wanted to use to maintain the state of stagnation and ideological hegemony which is itself a factor of intellectual and social stagnation.

The Higher State Council is determined, for its part, to respond to the aspirations of the Algerian people in retrieving their lost values or those distorted by false arguments and unacceptable behavior. Among these ideals are the patriotic spirit, the love of homeland, compassion, the spirit of resistance, the meaning of honor, idealism in behavior and conduct, mutual respect and tolerance.

The state of the educational system and the distortion of the political and ideological debate, beside the anarchic emergence of those with vested interests who want confusion to continue, partly explains the loss of these values. The despair which is currently experienced by some youth and the absence of reference landmarks require a project that would be at the level of the great fortune that these youth represent for the country.

The Patriotic Rally must, therefore, allow the Algerians to embody the objective aimed at putting Algeria before everything and above all consideration, away from the contradictions in their views or differences. These differences must form a source for mutual enrichment and not a factor of fragmentation or exclusion. The values of the Patriotic Rally, regardless of the organizational forms it will take, will (?seek) the restoration of the values on which every advanced society and modern state are founded.

The Patriotic Rally must, on the eve of the 30th anniversary of restoring independence, work hard to produce honest political cadres capable of taking up the task and shouldering the responsibility for the country's destiny. It will also work to restore hope to the hearts of the youth by mobilizing them around tangible issues and encouraging them to carry their responsibilities and by really giving them the means that will enable them to do that.

The Patriotic Rally is in the line of change and breaking with the past, and it aims at eradicating the vestiges of the one-party system, promoting the spirit of tolerance and democracy, fighting bribery and the exploitation of influence, putting an end to contempt and the humiliation which the youth have been suffering, at fighting incitement and all sorts of illegal trading, the mafia, and lastly, at breaking away from backward and obscurantist projects.

The Patriotic Rally offers a framework for expression for those who wish for things to change tangibly for work, housing, and a high level educational system for their children, the proper functioning of institutions, dignity and respect for every citizen, and, lastly, for social justice by way of fighting social differences. [Words indistinct] aims to fight stagnation, laziness, doubt and failure. For this purpose, we must take advantage of this opportunity to guarantee our destiny.

The choice is clear: Either we stand with our arms folded and wait, which would mean continuation of the march backwards and of despair, or we mobilize and enter the fighting arena, in which case everything becomes possible, so as to bring new life to Algeria.

3. As far as the relationship of the Patriotic Rally and the political parties is concerned, I have already mentioned in the call that the rally is open to parties, vocational and trade union organizations and also to associations. Parties which give their consent to the premise of the Rally can join the National Endorsement Committee which will be appointed over the next few days. Contrary to what came in statements or what has been written here and there, joining the Patriotic Rally does not at all presuppose that militants within political parties join on an individual basis only because we consider each and every Algerian responsible. [as heard] [passage omitted]

Parties that do not wish to join the Patriotic Rally will naturally continue their activities in all freedom within the framework of the Constitution and the law relating to associations of a political nature and by respecting the arrangements in force concerning the state of emergency.

I would like to say that some parties do not agree with the Patriotic Rally. They have the freedom to remain as parties. But (? the people) will be the judge. I said this in the first appeal. There is no (? way around) the elections. We are proceeding along the path of democracy. These people have followers and a system. This is so at the present time. The period is not long. Algeria has existed [as an independent state] for 30 years. The responsibility for the Higher Council will continue to the end of 1993. It is a big issue. These people will be continuing with their work, with their movements, with their activity. And the day the elections are to take place they will put forward the names of people they want as representatives. At that time the people will be the final judge.

4. With regard to the dialogue, those who are murdering our youths—the policemen, the gendarmerie, military men—and those who place bombs in public places are criminals and they are outlaws. The state will deal with them very severely. These people are known.

On the other hand, it is impossible to have a dialogue with the people who harm the credibility of Algeria by presenting a negative image about Algeria abroad.

Finally, those who conspire to shake the stability of the country and hamper the advancement of the country after they have led it to its present situation—these can

never be honest in their dialogue despite their repeated appeals for a national reconciliation.

Outside these we say welcome to the dialogue with all Algerians whatever their sensivity or their situation or their place. We say yes to a dialogue with those Algerians who are concerned about the future of the country and their sons' future and about safeguarding civil peace and developing the economy.

Briefly; yes to dialogue with all those who want to rescue Algeria. Contrary to what has been said or written, the Patriotic Rally is the opposite to dismissal and removal. It calls on all patriots to a constructive and fruitful dialogue.

5. With regard to establishing the Patriotic Rally: The Patriotic rally is not a party. It is being established on the basis of self-formation from the base as a result of voluntary initiatives from the citizens and the cadres that are in harmony with the aims embodied in the structure. The rally does not at all aim at restoring the formation of the single party; because Algeria suffered a great deal from the domination of the single party and because the national and democratic beliefs render these claims as null and void—claims which are baseless.

The Patriotic Rally is a broad movement for expression and for demands, and for action. The task of those who join the Patriotic Rally will be in meeting the project for the structure for the purpose of enriching and distributing it especially among the youths.

Those who join are required to study the problems that have been raised at local and national level and they should suggest solutions for them in a constructive spirit. Those who join the Patriotic Rally are required to support the Higher State Council and work for a break from the past and for change.

Some say that this Rally is being set up to support the Higher Council. [Words indistinct] I read this in a newspaper. Our newspapers represent different views and inclinations. This is not wrong. We want a Rally that serves the Higher Council. The self-appointed committees are required to appoint or elect freely interim bureaus to organize activities and contacts. Patriotic Rally representatives should be appointed at the end of the summer. They will aim to build this Rally's platform, framework, and leading bodies.

6. How is the Patriotic Rally structured? The Patriotic Rally should not be the result of a middle-of-the-road solution, opportunists, or political one-upmanship. Citizens would meet on the broadest possible base to infuse confidence among the citizens, the state, and the people and its leadership. The Patriotic Rally should form a balancing authority to face all forms of inertia, obstacles, and deviation. The job of support and the authority of balance are not contradictory; indeed, they are a guarantee that the Patriotic Rally committees' work will succeed. The Patriotic Rally is formed around a national project which clearly points to the movement, options, and project society wants to build. Its structures will have to define and embody this project.

The Patriotic Rally is built independently from the ground up. The groupings are formed regionally and at workplaces but outside work hours. The Patriotic Rally is built on joint efforts by committees at local, regional, and national level. A meeting of the Patriotic Rally's leading bodies, including representatives elected by the support committees, will mark the end of the stage in which the Patriotic Rally is built.

How will Patriotic Rally activities be financed? The Patriotic Rally is financed through membership dues, donations, and contributions.

What are the criteria for Patriotic Rally membership at the local level? The committees will remove every opportunist element and grafter once they are formed. The National Committee for Liaison and Ethics will be formed at the national level and will include 60-90 members. The Committee will ensure that all the elements, parties, organizations, or societies which do not possess the aforementioned criteria for the Patriotic Rally are expelled. [passage omitted] [Correspondent, in French] Mr. President, you have been discussing the Patriotic Rally. When the local sponsorship committees are formed, will they be allowed to meet anywhere, including at workplaces, as you mentioned? Will they be allowed to meet on party premises, for instance, or on the premises of already formed institutions, like the General Union of Algerian Workers, etc.? This is the first question...

[Boudiaf, interrupting in French] I would like to answer this question. It is permitted...[changes thought] Some associations will ask for Patriotic Rally affiliation. I do not see any drawback to them meeting on the premises of a trade union or the premises of an association. Nothing prohibits this.

[Correspondent, in French] Mr. President, will it be necessary to obtain the administration's approval for these committees to be formed and installed?

[Boudiaf, in French] Absolutely not. Local authority, whether governors or heads of administrative districts, is independent from the Patriotic Rally...[Boudiaf, in Arabic] Outside this framework. We would like to see debates or proposals from this Rally to the authority tomorrow. This is required, but the authority has its own role. We would like the Rally to be independent from the authority in place. If a governor calls people for a meeting, they should know that they have complete freedom in their organization.

[Correspondent, in French] Mr. President, you just said that there have been encouraging reactions to the Patriotic Rally. Can we have details? Can we say that failure has already been avoided? Must we still suppose that failure is probable?

[Boudiaf, in French] You speak of failure; I do not speak of failure. First, we are at the start of something new in Algeria...[Boudiaf, in Arabic] This is one thing. Your conclusion that in the coming days some disputes are perhaps bound to happen...[changes thought] I will speak in French...[Boudiaf, in French] There may be trials and errors; honestly, we do not know how things will develop. We urge the grass roots to take the initiative to form support committees. I am convinced that all honest Algerians, the Algerians who want to work toward Algerian interests, will attend the democratic rally.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, are the Patriotic Rally's tasks defined in terms of time? Will its tasks end when there is a return to elections?

[Boudiaf] No doubt about it. This Patriotic Rally is extensive, and we want it to be extensive. Views on this might not be in harmony with each another. This is why I think the Higher State Council has objectives: first, to restore authority to the state; second, to stabilize the situation in the homeland; and third, to return to the democratic process and elections to give this people elected and legitimate institutions. This Patriotic Rally has objectives in this process and at this point, including uniting ranks and giving the country a strong, legitimate authority to face up to the situation. The Patriotic Rally will have the freedom after this stage either to divide into parties or to remain a Rally. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. President, if the Patriotic Rally [words indistinct] nominating candidates for either the presidential or legislative elections, does that not require formal approval from the competent authorities, in accordance with the law?

[Boudiaf] I told you that we want the Patriotic Rally to be free, to be a base for Algerian youth, for citizens and the good cadres [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. President, you just said that you will not hold a dialogue with those who threaten to destabilize the country. We understand that you target the National Liberation Front [FLN].

[Boudiaf] No, I do not target the FLN. I located well [words indistinct]. [passage omitted] The people who know are the people in the street, at home, and at school who urge others to do good and who do good themselves. We see that in some societies...[changes thought] First, let me tell you this story: I was stopped in Switzerland a while back. A policeman brought me the bill from the restaurant where I had a meal with a group of people, including Mahsas. He told me: You had a meal here. This is possible because Swiss society works with the authorities and because it regards it as a patriotic duty. This is also the case in Japan, where there are police stations everywhere and the people are even expected to inform the police about the arrival of friends or relatives. This helps maintain order. If this happened in our society, it would be considered a delation, as the French would say.

However, you must realize that Tokyo is secure and that the people accept this state of affairs for this reason. Therefore, we would like to have a broad Patriotic Rally in which the citizen can be active. What are these-...[Boudiaf, in French] accompanying measures? We would like to move forward to clear up the present situation. We would like honest, educated people who can give us a hand to do so. What is happening in Algeria...[changes thought] There are many highly educated people. I speak not about those who have left but those who have stayed, who are either on one side or are in the wrong place. We will try to discover more about that Algeria. We must also try to help bring back all these highly educated people and give them the place they deserve because the state is built not only from the top but also also with its components.

I must say one thing to all ministers and officials: You must try to ensure that the state's senior officials are in stable positions. When ministers are changed, the newcomers should not get rid of the others...[Boudiaf, in Arabic] This should not happen in the future because we are dealing with senior officials. This is what happens in developed states and in democracies which are well-known and which have a history.

The state should not be in government hands; it should be in the hands of those in charge of dossiers, who are following up the country's affairs. We would like to see the Algerian state with a body of stable, valuable, senior officials. We should not allow anyone to come along and say remove that person unless that person makes a mistake. This is understandable, but we must have a body of senior officials. These officials must have self-confidence and must enjoy stability to work because if a minister is changed, they will not feel concerned for they have their own work. Therefore, the state must be built on this basis. The state is built on society. Some people believe that democracy—and this appears in some papers—means criticism, insults, and so on. This is not up to the standard of patriots who really want to give the country some value. Democracy is not anarchy. Democracy has foundations which must be respected. We must also respect the opinions of others. For instance, it is regrettable when we hear that there are riots in the streets or that somebody was kidnapped while people watched. People like this do not deserve to live. There is the well-known phrase in the Koran: Anyone who sees a reprehensible action should change it with deeds or words. The good citizen is the one in the street, at the factory, or at home who urges people to do good and who forms a virtuous family. If this citizen stands indifferent, he or she does not deserve to live. When somebody comes and shoots an innocent person whose only crime is to look after public security and when a group of people just stands idly by and does not take any action, I feel that these people do not deserve to live or to be considered citizens.

In the name of God, go ahead Mr. Zouaoui.

[Correspondent, in French] Thank you, Mr. President. I am Zouaoui Ben Hamadi, from ALGERIE-ACTUALITES. Mr. President, the presidential election question has prompted some debate. Some say that certain people would like to encourage you, for example, to put forward your candidacy as soon as possible because they think that time is not necessarily working for you. Others suggest that it would be fairer to give you time to realize what you can do and for you to put forward your candidacy to chair this Patriotic Rally—of course, only if you want to be a candidate. This would be at the end of the process you just mentioned. Could you clarity this for us?

[Boudiaf, in French] This was clear. Some officials have said that there will be elections before year's end and that I would be a candidate. All this is unofficial. It is true that we want to move toward elections as soon as possible to give the country stable, legitimate institutions. We can pass to this stage only on the day peace returns to Algeria, to the streets and the minds of the people.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, the Patriotic Rally is expected to carry out great tasks, especially since it aims to bring about radical change and contrast with past practices. Do you believe that two years is enough time to set up this Rally's structure and to activate society economically, socially, and culturally toward the awaited objectives?

[Boudiaf] So that you are not...[changes thought] We have two years, from now until 1993. We will not go beyond 1993. This is a pledge we make before the people. What are we saying? While Algeria has potential, cadres, and people, it is most important to note that all people understand politics. People understand it superficially. I receive those who come here with a theory. Clearly, there is a political culture. We feel that if we and the Patriotic Rally had some political parties and some functioning cadres, we would clearly end up with good results before then.

Another issue involves those who began to sow doubt by saying that Algeria may be in crisis today. Politicians and others have told me that Algeria has real potential for progress, no matter how grave the situation may be, because we have potential. Unfortunately, this potential is not used in the national interest or for the good of the homeland. If we start discussing the past, we might-...[changes thought] However, Algeria has potential. If we mobilize, act as men, and so on, there are solutions. We can provide Algeria with proper foundations. It has strong, durable resources.

We are very heavily in debt. We are dealing with this subject. We must take a stand on this matter—and we are—and must let the people know, because the one thing that is perhaps new since the Higher State Council was installed is that every matter adopted at government or higher level was but with consultation with a union or suchlike. Thus, we can see that the stand is collective and benefits this homeland.

I can't tell you that from now until 1993, for I really don't know. [sentence as heard] God knows the truth. However, I am certain that this timeframe is sufficient for us to create a spirit in Algeria. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. President, you said that the Rally is not a political party. It aims to develop a social project. Can we say that the Rally is laying the ground for a political party?

[Boudiaf] One political party or several political parties in the sense that we want people in this Rally not to be identical and and to hold different views on certain problems. However, we want them to accept one another as Algerians capable of building Algeria together. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. President, the security situation obviously raises public concern, despite efforts at appeasement here and there. Mr. President, do you not think that this situation constitutes a hurdle—if not one of the main hurdles—on the Patriotic Rally's course? That was my first question...

[Boudiaf, interrupting] Maybe, but I do not think so because [word indistinct]. If the Patriotic Rally is set up as we envisage, it will decide these matters for us. [passage omitted]

One other thing—and this extends to political parties, as well: I wish you would reject violence. Violence leads nowhere and only aggravates enmity. If those people think that they can mislead [word indistinct] with such acts then they are wrong. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. President, do you think the Patriotic Rally can succeed if the three main parties which emerged during the elections—the Islamic Salvation Front, the Socialist Forces Front, and parties with religious tendencies—oppose or boycott it?

[Boudiaf] I do not know. You could only assess the real importance of some parties once the elections were over for their strength was temporary. There were people in favor of the state and then there were others. People won votes in a certain way, which is why we should revise the electoral lists that were rigged in such a way that Algerians could decide [words inditinct]. We will see. On the other hand, the Patriotic Rally is for everyone. We exclude only those who like to think that they are more Algerian, more patriotic, or more Muslim than the rest.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, is Mohamed Boudiaf's relationship with Army leaders and other Higher State Council members still as good as it was?

[Boudiaf] If Algeria has any luck, it is because it has an Army. [sentence as heard] When I first came here, I asked the Army if the security issue was under their control. They said it was. I told them: In that case, seize

power. That is the way I put it to them. They said: No, we will not; the Army does not want power. Praise be to God, we have an Army that does not want power. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. President, are you satisfied with the distance you have covered since arriving in Algeria?

[Boudiaf] I am satisfied. Keep in mind that Algeria made good moves to calm the situation. Let us pray to God to help us restore security and tranquillity in this country.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, I will not be long because I feel that we are keeping you. Apologies on behalf of all correspondents.

We recently heard some officials say that the closing of detention centers in the south indicates that the state of emergency is being lifted. What is your personal assessment of the security situation we live in today? What are the conditions for lifting the state of emergency? That was the first question.

Mr. President, I used two words on television the first time I reported to Algerian citizens: corruption and mafia. Citizens feel there is hesitancy today. Could we say that your hands are tied when it comes to pointing to this or that side?

Third, there are reports that Higher State Council Chairman Mohamed Boudiaf could very possibly revive his habit of visiting some regions in Algiers Province—that is, inside the country—to make the citizens feel the need to participate in this Rally. How true is that statement?

[Boudiaf] The last question [word indistinct]. I wish to make contact with the country and to hold discussions with cadres. That is my duty. As for prisoners, the number of prisoners has decreased 50 percent, from 8,000 to the current 4,214. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] The world is regrouping in a different way. One of the Higher State Council's priorities was to bring security to the country and to restore the state's dignity. The Higher State Council tried to break the isolation by sending officials to Europe and the United States. How do you perceive Algeria's presence now on the international scene?

[Boudiaf] Algeria certainly has played a big role at the international level. However, I give a lot more importance to domestic problems. A country can play a big role externally only if it is strong domestically. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent Okazi] Ghania Okazi from "Perspectives." With your permission, Mr. Chairman, let us tackle the economic sector. What are the ways and means which will be adopted to implement and apply the process of privatization in the economic sector.

Second question: In order to settle disputes in the agricultural sector, will agricultural land be sold, and how?

[Boudiaf] Anyway, as regards the economic questions [begins speaking French], I am not an economist, but I can say one thing, however. As regards our economic vision, we are heading toward a market economy. We inherited a totally different system. An authoritarian system. We have a large sector that is still public, with a failing part in it. We are trying to find solutions to these problems, and work is under way to this effect. These problems are not overlooked by the government, they are not overlooked either by external organizations such as the IMF and the World Bank. They know about our situation. We are trying to preserve all the sectors that are posing problems of manpower and profitability. We are trying to clean up these sectors with a view to maintaining all workers. We are also trying to give them a new lease on life by allowing them to develop and overcome the difficulties they are currently facing. Maybe there are some companies which are not longer viable; consequently, we have to take other decisions.

As regards agriculture, I had a meeting with the minister of agriculture recently, and I was very happy to hear a decision-maker in the agricultural field saying: before, we used to receive directives, but now we are being consulted to know what kind of solutions should be found. I think that we should go the decision-makers in all fields and to the social partners so as to talk to them with a view to finding the best ways, be they in agriculture, or in the private of public sectors.

[Correspondent Termoul] Mourad Termoul from weekly L'EVENEMENT. Does the removal of subsidies from the prices of basic commodities during a critical security situation stem from wisdom or from determined logic?

[Boudiaf, in French] Is your question about the accuracy of prices?

[Correspondent, in Arabic] It is about removing subsidies from the prices of basic commodities.

[Boudiaf, in French] This stems from an economic vision which we must adopt. There is another problem which I submit to you and which is rather serious. The Algerian currency is suffering from a level of inflation reaching 40 percent. Therefore, the financial situation is not that good. We intend to overcome this problem. This is why it has become a necessity to adopt the accuracy of prices which had been preceded for many months. I do not have the figures, but Sid Ahmed Ghozali can give them to you, by huge costs incurred by the social net. We had done this to try to encourage the low salaries and the deprived categories. [passage omitted]

Council Evaluates Work on Rally

LD2306214292 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] At its meeting today under the chairmanship of Mohamed Boudiaf, the Higher State Council made a preliminary evaluation of the works which are under way for the purpose of setting up the Patriotic Rally. It considered that the numerous reactions it received from citizens and associations from the different parts of the country represent an encouragement for the continuation and the support of these projects.

In this context, and while awaiting the election of the leadership bodies of the Rally, the inauguration of the national committees for support and ethics will take place in the coming days. These committees will be charged with the organization and activation of the local committees.

The Higher State Council reaffirmed its determination to confront acts which affect public order and security and to restore the authority of the state. The Higher State Council is determined to implement the law with full severity on all plotters who aim to shake the stability of the country, no matter what form their acts may take, whether acts of assassination of security officials, organized disruptions of the Baccalaureat examinations, or the smuggling of essential goods at the expense of citizens.

The Higher State Council considers the stability of the state's institutions and the respect of public morals require the contribution of all citizens, especially the cadres and the employees of the administration and the economic sector, both public and private. For this purpose, the Higher State Council reiterates that it will relentlessly continue the fight against bribery and pursue those charged with it no matter what their social status or their place in the administrative echelons.

Aware that political stability forms the primary condition for settling the economic and social problems suffered by the homeland, the Higher State Council is determined to exert the utmost effort to find the necessary solutions that would allow Algeria to continue its march toward economic progress, social peace and national harmony.

Egypt

Further Reportage on Incidents in Upper Egypt

Commanders Ordered To Uproot 'Extremists'

NC2406162092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Asyut, 24 Jun (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa issued instructions to the security commanders in Asyut, Upper Egypt, not to leave the area until the sedition and the leaders of the extremists involved in recent incidents in Sanabu and Dayrut have been uprooted.

These instructions were made public by Major General 'Abd-al- Rahim al-Nahhas, first assistant interior minister for central security, who is in charge of the security forces entrusted with securing Dayrut and neighboring areas in the wake of incidents that took place last Saturday. A total of four citizens, including a noncommissioned officer, were killed and six people, including Dayrut's police commissioner, were wounded during the incidents.

Maj. Gen. al-Nahhas explained that two plans have been devised to confront extremists in these areas: The first plan, a short-term solution, calls for direct confrontation with the extremists; the second, more of a long-term one, calls for establishing guidelines to protect the youth from being tempted and recruited into joining the extremist groups.

Last night security forces mounted several operations against villages in Asyut Governorate, a stronghold for extremist groups, and arrested a number of suspects. Unlicensed weapons and live ammunition were found in the suspects' possession.

In an intensive campaign against Dayrut, the scene of recent acts of violence, and neighboring areas, security agencies arrested more extremists suspected of being involved in the recent unrest.

'Fundamentalists' Held for Questioning

NC2406200792 Paris AFP in English 1802 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, June 24 (AFP) - Egyptian security forces on Wednesday held 300 suspected Muslim fundamentalists for questioning following a wave of violence near the southern town of Asyut, police sources said. Some 150 mobile anti-riot squads backed by armored vehicles carried out search operations for six hours in five villages near Asyut, 500 kilometers (310 miles) south of the capital, they said.

Authorities suspected the villages served as hideouts for leaders of small extremist cells planning an attack after Friday prayers, prompting police to step up security at public buildings and places of Muslim and Christian worship as well as strengthen street patrols.

Some 450 members of extremist Muslim organizations have been detained since the outbreak of bloody interreligious unrest last week in Sanabu and Dayrut, across the Nile from Asyut, police said. [passage omitted]

Palestinian President 'Arafat Arrives for Visit

NC2406140992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jun (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo this afternoon for his first visit after his successful brain surgery in Jordan.

'Arafat was met by Dr. Jalal Abu-al-Dhahab, minister of supplies and internal trade, and Palestine Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal.

'Arafat, who flew in to the Egyptian capital from Amman, said he would meet President Husni Mubarak to discuss the results of the elections.

Upon his arrival in Cairo, 'Arafat said his visit to Egypt was delayed for three weeks. He said that he will discuss Arab issues and the Palestinian issue with President Husni Mubarak during the visit.

'Arafat added that while in Amman, he met with the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the peace talks.

'Arafat commented about the Israeli elections, saying: For the past few weeks we closely followed what has been going on in Israel regarding the elections. He added that the Israelis voted against the terrorism that Yitzhaq Shamir was carrying out against the Palestinian people's women and children. By this choice, he added, the Israeli people are pushing the government to act for peace. We are waiting to see what the new government will do regarding moves towards peace.

For our part, 'Arafat added, we will speed up the peace process. We are dealing with the Palestinian issue from the premise of what our masses and peoples are imposing on us and to protect our land. The uprising is continuing and this makes us optimistic.

Comments on Israeli Election Results

NC2406150292 Paris AFP in English 1433 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, June 24 (AFP) - Israel's electorate "voted against war and terrorism," PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat said here Wednesday in reaction to the Israeli polls which secured victory for the opposition Labour Party. The Israeli people had Tuesday "voted to bring its government to work in the interests of peace," the Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman said.

He said the "Israeli masses have voted against the war and terrorism" of outgoing Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in the occupied territories and south Lebanon. "We're waiting to see if the new Israeli government will respond favorably to the hopes of its people or if it will pursue the same policy as that of the outgoing government which ignored the establishment of a just peace," he added.

Meets With Mubarak

NC2406211992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1715 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jun (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak met with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat this evening. PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, 'Arafat's adviser Nabil Sha'th, Fatah representative in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah, and Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal attended the meeting.

Mubarak, Omani Sultan on Israeli Election, Libya

NC2406130892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1147 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Alexandria, 24 Jun (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Omani Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id met privately at noon today for a round of talks that lasted more than an hour.

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im, chief of the Presidential Press Office, said that the talks dealt with a number of important issues, especially the prospects of the Middle East peace process in view of the outcome of yesterday's Israeli elections, the attitudes of the new Israeli Government, and its effect on the regional situation and the future of the peace process.

He added that Mubarak and Qabus touched on the statement issued yesterday by the Libyan People's Congress, particularly with regard to the Lockerbie issue and the details of the Libyan-Western crisis, as well as the situation in the Gulf, current international developments, and their impact on the Arab region.

At the end of the private session, members of the Egyptian and Omani delegations joined the two leaders. The Omanis included Qays Bin-'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs; Dr. 'Umar al-Zawawi, Sultan Qabus' private adviser; Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rawwas; Yusuf Bin- 'Alawi, minister of state for foreign affairs; and 'Abdallah Bin- Hamad, Omani ambassador in Cairo. The Egyptians included Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, Finance Minister Dr. Muhammad al-Razzaz, and Local Administration Minister Dr. Mahmud Sharif.

Editorial Praises Omani's Visit

NC2406125792 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 24 Jun 92

[From the Press Review]

[Text] Under the headline "An Important Summit; Positive Results are Expected," today's AL-JUMHURIYAH editorial writes: Amid important Arab and international developments, the Egyptian-Omani summit between President Husni Mubarak and his brother Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman began yesterday. Sultan Qabus arrived in Cairo as part of an Arab tour.

The paper clarifies that Arab solidarity and coordination are goals to which Egypt and Oman have dedicated a great deal over the years. Their cooperation has a positive effect on all Arab issues. The two leaders believe that the restoration of Arab solidarity and coordination is the cure for Arab crises, and the way to confront international developments and enjoy a positive role in the new world order. They also believe that the scope of their differences must not extend to principles or accepted stands.

The paper says that observers expect positive and fruitful results from the Egyptian-Omani summit in view of the distinguished relations which have linked Cairo to Muscat for many years, and which were not affected by any of the dark clouds that troubled Arab relations. Both countries' concern for higher Arab interests is a strong guarantee for Arab solidarity and coordination.

Reaction to Labor Party Win in Israeli Election

Musa on Rabin Peace Process Statement

NC2506052392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2125 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Dakkar, 24 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa described Israeli Labor Party leader Yitzhaq Rabin's statement about his desire to go ahead with the peace process as a good start for resuming the process. Commenting about the results of the Israeli elections, he said that Rabin's statement can serve as a beginning for more ardently proceeding with the process based on the land-for-peace formula.

Commentary Sees 'Optimism'

NC2406133992 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Muhammad al-Razzaz commentary: Implications of Israeli Elections, Their Reflections on Peace]

[Text] The Israeli Knesset's 13th session elections produced significant results for our region, particularly for the next phase of the Middle East peace process. Labor Party Leader Yitzhaq Rabin wrested victory from his Likud rival Shamir, who pursued a policy of exaggeration, extremism, and political intransigence. Shamir raised the slogan of peace for peace—refusal to relinquish the occupied Arab territories—although he knew very well that no Middle East peace could be established without a just and comprehensive solution.

If we analyze the statements of the new Israeli leader, Rabin, who will implement Israeli domestic and foreign policy over the next four years, we will find that their first lines reflect an interest in peace, coupled with security. He then links peace and security with the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He stresses that it is imperative to devise a plan for these two Arab areas. This means that Rabin's strategy is not based on maintaining control of the occupied Arab territories, because peace cannot be achieved while Israel maintains the land and weapons. So, early reactions to these statements appear optimistic and hopeful, particularly those of the Jordanian king or PLO official Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh. Both welcomed the election results.

This means Arabs can read the result well; it is a much better result than had the hardline Likud continued to lead Israel. But we should not be overly optimistic. We should note here that Cairo and the Egyptian political leadership followed the Israeli election battle with interest. Egypt believed the Israeli people would decide the result, in which light the main guidelines for future handling of the peace process would be determined.

If Arabs sense early signs of optimism, these are based on Israeli leadership statements that are not extreme or rigid. We would like to stress that the next phase and Israel's handling of the peace process will be very different from what they were under Shamir's leadership. The U.S. Administration, which took the initiative at the Madrid peace conference and later at the bilateral talks in Washington and at the multilaterals, can certainly deal with an Israeli approach generally different from the stricter, more extremist approach pursued before.

As Arabs, we must coordinate our stands and deal with the new Israeli reality in a manner that reflects respect for the peace process and its objectives and considers all its possible results.

We do not deny any state the right to enjoy security. We insist on our own security in Egypt and in the Arab states, but this security should not be based on occupying other people's land or persisting with violent acts that trigger counter violence, as in south Lebanon.

If it is peace we seek, we demand that it include all the states and peoples of our region. All we reaped from violence and war was hatred, destruction, economic crises, and extremism. Peace is the only guarantee for ending violence, extremism, and war. It is the only road that leads us all to stability and eventually to development and prosperity for the people.

'Swift' Policy Changes 'Unlikely'

NC2506070692 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 25 Jun 92

[From the Press Review]

[Text] In today's editorial, AL-AKHBAR writes: The Israeli elections outcome may have surprised Yitzhaq Shamir but not others inside and outside Israel. The election results reflected a feeling that has been growing steadily among the Israeli public; that the country would fare better without the bitterness and hostility of its neighbors and that power alone cannot accomplish everything.

Many Israelis, including veteran Israeli leaders and generals, have concluded that the Israelis cannot lead a peaceful life in the absence of a real and lasting coexistence.

The paper writes: This does not mean a new era has begun in which the peace process—which Shamir and his clique have done their best to block and even undermine—will proceed smoothly. The threat to that process will persist, notwithstanding the change in leaders and governments.

AL-AKHBAR concludes by saying that Arab countries, while following the situation in the light of the recent

Israeli elections, should remain prepared for all possibilities. Swift and unforeseen changes in Israel's policies remain a remote possibility. The fact that the Labor Party is still run by such old guards as Yitzhaq Rabin, Shim'on Perez, and others makes such changes unlikely, at least in the near future.

Musa Cites Concern on South Africa Developments

NC2406172092 Cairo MENA in English 1636 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] Dakar, June 24 (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa expressed Egypt's great concern over latest developments in South Africa.

Commenting on the ongoing discussions at the OAU Ministerial Council meeting, Musa called for the immediate dispatch of a fact-finding misson from the OAU to South Africa, saying that it would be unreasonable that non-African organisations send such missions while the African organisation does not do that. He underscored the importance of issuing a strong resolution by the organisation to refer the issue to the Security Council with full denunciation of the massacres that claimed the lives of many people.

Musa called for the reactivation of the National Front formed in South Africa which comprises all the peace-loving democratic powers in South Africa.

The minister called for an active role and presence by the organisation in South Africa for the sake of supporting the just struggle of the black majority.

Consultative Council Speaker, Deputies Elected

NC2406131192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1154 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 24 Jun (MENA)—The Consultative Council unanimously reelected Dr. Mustafa Kamal Hilmi as its speaker. He received 237 votes in the election held by the Council today.

Dr. Tharwat Abazah was reelected deputy speaker representing the professional sectors, and 'Abd-al-'Al al-Jarihi was elected deputy speaker representing the workers. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arms Shipments to Sudan via Kenya Denied

LD2106073892 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2235 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 20 June 1992 (SPA)—Saudi television has conducted an interview with his excellency Mahat Yunis, Kenyan ambassador to the Kingdom, the text of which follows. [passage omitted]

Newscaster: Mr. Ambassador, welcome. Your excellency has heard SANA's report, on behalf of Sudanese President 'Umar Al-Bashir, about allegations that two Saudi ships are docking at quays Number 15 and 16 at Kenya's Mombasa port with cargoes of arms to support the rebels in southern Sudan. What does your excellency say to such allegations:

The Ambassador's answer: Thank you very much for this opportunity. I would like to answer your question in the following statement. My attention was caught by the statement issued by the Sudan concerning allegations about two ships from Saudi Arabia. My government made serious remarks about these allegtions, making it clear that no such things as quays 15 and 16 exist at Mombasa port.

In fact, quay 15, where one of the ships was said to dock, does not exist at all at the Kenyan port. I would therefore like to make it clear that the story quoted by Sudan is not at all true and that the entire subject was fabricated to suit the interests of its source.

The Kenyan government refutes such a false report by a friendly country and wishes to stress that it does not permit the use of its ports for the transit of illegitimate weapons whatever their origin may be. I would like to further explain that the Kenyan government's policy is not to interfere in the internal affairs of friendly countries or in the legitimate affairs of other countries.

TV announcer: Your excellency, Mr. Ambassador, one understands from your statement that there is no such thing as quay 15 at Mombasa port.

Answer of the ambassador: Yes, as I said in my reply, there is no quay 15 at Mombasa port. The number quoted was perhaps fabricated by those who made the statement. However, I would like to clarify that we do not have a quay 15 at Mombasa port.

TV announcer: Do we understand from this that there are no Saudi vessels at anchor at Mombasa port?

Ambassador's reply: We stress that we do not have any vessel from Saudi Arabia or from any other quarter in the world at Mombasa port. [sentence as heard]

Announcer: At the end of the meeting is there anything you would like to add?

Ambassador: I would like only to add to the statement and explain to viewers that Kenya shelters at present many refugees from its neighbors Sudan, Somalia and Ethiopia. They number up to 250,000 persons who fled their countries as a result of the problems. Kenya would like peace to prevail in these states so the refugees can return to their own states so our country can be relieved of this great burden.

As a result of these problems Kenya has no reason to have weapons which could lead to more problems in these neighboring states. We hope that peace will prevail in these states so the refugees will return. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Minister's Aide Killed By Security Patrol

PM2306105392 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Jun 92 p 1

[Lutfi Shatarah report: "Yemeni Defense Minister's Adviser Killed in Clash With Security in Sanaa"]

[Excerpt] Aden—Colonel Majid Murshid Sayf, adviser to the defense minister and member of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee, was killed in a confrontation with a security patrol in al-Safiyah area in the capital, Sanaa, in the early hours of yesterday. Two soldiers from the patrol were also killed.

An authoritative Yemeni Interior Ministry source emphasized to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Col. Sayf had not adhered to security instructions not to drive at a high speed at night and ignored the need to to stop at police checkpoints, which examine drivers' identities. [passage omitted]

As is known, night patrols have started to spread on the streets of major Yemeni cities to implement the security plan pledged by the government with a view to putting an end to the wave of political assassinations and acts of violence sweeping Yemen and threatening the main leaderships there.

The incidents come one week after the assassination of Hashim al-'Attas, brother of Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, in al-Shihr Directorate in Hadhramaut Governorate.

The source did not reveal why the defense minister's adviser opened fire on the patrol. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Alleged U.S. Burning of Iraqi Crops

U.S. Aircraft Resume 'Attacks'

JN2406175292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jun (INA)—U.S. aircraft have resumed their attacks on the wheat and barley fields of farmers and peasants in villages near the city of Mosul.

At 1115 yesterday, the attacking U.S. aircraft dropped flares on agricultural lands in villages of Balawat in al-Hamadaniyah District in the Governorate of Ninawa, burning 13 dunums planted with wheat.

Attacking aircraft also continued their violations of Iraqi airspace over the city of Mosul, conducting individual sorties in various formations.

Kurdish Party Condemns 'Ugly Crime'

JN2406174692 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] The Political Bureau of the Kurdistan Democratic Party has strongly condemned the ugly crime committed by the United States and its partners when they burned thousands of dunums of lands planted with wheat and barley in villages near the city of Mosul.

In a statement issued today, the party called on the international community—the honest political parties, organizations, and forces, and sincere humanitarian societies—to stand by the Iraqi people in their confrontation of U.S. arrogance and British disdain that are manifested in burning the nation's means of living and maintaining the unjust blockade.

The statement noted that the vile acts of the aggressors have been exposed to all world nations that love peace, freedom, and progress.

The statement also explained that the faithful Iraqi people have reconstructed all that was damaged by the aggressors and continued to build, grow crops, and think, using alternative methods that could break the unjust blockade.

The statement asked the international community to do what is required by humanitarian standards and protect the Iraqi people from the continued unjust blockade and the acts that followed it, which are unprecedented in the history of humanity.

WFC Asked to Condemn Crop Burning

JN2506060392 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0300 GMT 25 Jun 92

[Text] Iraq has asked the World Food Council [WFC], which is currently holding its 18th session in Nairobi, to condemn the U.S. crime of burning Iraqi crop fields as a flagrant violation of international laws and norms. Iraq also has requested that the Council work for a speedy lifting of the unjust blockade being imposed upon the Iraqi people. The calls came within a speech delivered by the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Kenya. He condemned the crime being perpetrated by the states of aggression—the United States and Britain.

Foreign Minister Receives Iranian Envoy

JN2406130092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jun (INA)—Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn today received 'Ali Kharam [name as received], adviser to Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who currently is on a visit to Iraq. The Iranian official is on a visit to Baghdad as an envoy to convey a message from the Iranian foreign minister to the foreign minister of the Republic of Iraq. The message deals with the latest developments concerning the repatriation of prisoners and the stages accomplished regarding this issue.

The foreign minister expressed his pleasure at meeting Mr. Kharam and his desire to promote bilateral relations.

The Iranian official expressed his pleasure at visiting Baghdad, which is removing the dust of the Atlantic-Zionist aggression. He also congratulated the Iraqi people for their great achievements in the field of reconstruction.

Assembly Speaker Meets French Front Delegation

JN2406175792 Baghdad INA in English 1710 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, June 24, INA—Mr Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of the National Assembly, received today the delegation of the French National Front Party.

During the meeting, Mr. Salih explained the adverse left [as received] by the U.S.-led 30-nation aggression on Iraq and the continuity of the U.N.- imposed economic blockade which conflict with the simplest principles of international legitimacy and law.

The French delegation voiced denunciation and indignation over the ongoing gratuitous economic embargo imposed on Iraq since August 1990, saying that this embargo is inconsistent with the human rights and international laws, conventions and norms.

Writer Attacks Security Council on Demarcation

JN2206055692 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 20 Jun 92 p 2

["A Stand and an Issue" column by Dr. Sami Sa'dun: "A Null Decision and a Tendentious Statement"]

[Text] The UN Security Council has issued a statement on the work of the so-called Iraq-"Kuwait" [quotation marks as published] border demarcation committee. The statement does not differ in either nature or spirit from

previous statements and resolutions issued by the Security Council against Iraq, beginning with Resolution 660 and ending with Resolution 715. Its sentences, although short, imply threats and warnings about "grave consequences" of any Iraqi "violation" of the committee's decision.

The statement was a response to the foreign minister's 21 May letter to the UN secretary general. In his letter, the minister spoke in detail about the work of the committee, which was imposed by Resolution 687 and which did not act in an objective, just, or fair way. Furthermore, Iraq was not allowed to choose any of the committee members. The committee relied on unfounded and erroneous British explanations and sources, which were not based on any historical right or geographic basis.

The UN Security Council statement was, in effect, a U.S.-British statement, which, as always, was issued in the name of the Council. The statement, like the decision of the committee, had clear biased and aggressive political objectives against Iraq, as demonstrated by the way in which Resolution 687 was imposed on the country. The committee was set up in accordance with Resolution 687, and the Americans and the British insisted on using the United Nations and its Security Council to force Iraq to accept this committee.

The decision of the so-called border demarcation committee is null and not objective since it was based on British explanations and a map drawn in 1991; that is, after the 30-state evil aggression against Iraq. The decision ignores all known historical and geographical facts in order to realize mean political ends. This will keep the region living in constant tension and at the brink of explosion, which may occur at any time. The British and the Americans are seeking to keep the region hostage in their hands and always in need of them.

The question is: Who benefits from the border demarcation committee's decision and the UN Security Council statement?

It is well known to everyone that the glorious Iraqis do not accept injustice and that he who infringes on them will pay a very dear price. If the current circumstance is not appropriate, then it certainly will not last very long. The other party, which expressed satisfaction over the Council's statement, knows this. They know full well what awaits them for their drift behind the onslaught against Iraq. They should not let this "border bomb" deprive them of sleep and worry day and night. They should look far and consider the future of generations to come. The sin they are living in will only bring disaster to them and to their children, no matter how long it takes. No one in Iraq, and no virtuous person in the Arab world, agrees with them in this issue. No one in our great Iraq will stand idle when a right is usurped. The Iraqi knows where the borders of the glorious homeland stand. All the decisions that have been, or will be, imposed, all the maps that have been drawn, and all the borders that have been fixed cannot change any of the facts of history, reality, or geography.

Interior Minister Urges Visits to River Project

JN2406172492 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan today chaired an extraordinary conference for governors, heads of agricultural and municipal departments, and peasants societies in all governorates.

The conference is being held under the slogan "Iraq Is Everyone's Homeland and Protecting Its Security and Sovereignty Is Everyone's Responsibility." The conference was opened with a reading from the holy Koran. Afterwards, the attendees read Koranic verses for the souls of the noblest of all of us, the martyrs of Iraq and the Arab nation.

The agenda of the extraordinary conference focuses on three pivots: The river of leader Saddam Husayn, vertical construction, and Law No. 35 of 1983 pertaining to regulating the rental of agricultural land for citizens and cooperatives.

Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan stressed the importance of field visits by the governors and the heads of governorate departments to the work site of leader Saddam Husayn's river project and benefiting from this creative experiment.

The interior minister also called for making realistic suggestions to ensure the best investment of agricultural land and its distribution to the largest possible number of agricultural investors. He also emphasized the importance of modern techniques by adopting vertical construction, because expanding horizontal construction is always at the expense of agricultural land.

Rebel Radio Reports 'Jihad Operations'

NC2406170992 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1320 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Our popular forces continue to launch their jihad operations against the cowardly Saddamite remnants, inflicting heavy casualties in the process. A few weeks ago, our couragous mujahidin in the al-Maymunah District blew up military vehicles carrying missiles and military equipment being transported to forward positions in the areas and villages adjacent to the marshlands. Last week another group of mujahidin from our popular troops destroyed three military vehicles along the al-Dayr-al-Nafr road, killing the mercenaries inside. In both operations, our mujahidin returned safely to base after carrying out their heroic missions.

Rabin Holds News Conference on Election Results

TA2406152592 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1305 GMT 24 Jun 92

[News conference with Labor Chairman Yitzhaq Rabin at Labor's Headquarters in Tel Aviv; Rabin's statement is followed by a question-and-answer session with political correspondents—live]

[Text] [Rabin] Good afternoon. The election results as we know them today are not formal yet; nor do we have the very final figures since soldiers' votes have not been counted yet. I greatly believe and hope that the soldiers' votes will not basically change the election results. They may result in a change of a single Knesset seat or so, but I believe they will not make a difference. Assuming this, I see a possibility of establishing a government founded on the broadest possible basis—provided that we head it—which will execute the policies as they were presented to the voters during the election campaign, certainly its main points. I believe this is possible.

One should remember that there are several formal procedures. At the first stage, the president should hold consultations with the parties' representatives to decide whom to entrust with the task of establishing the new government. As things stand today, it is highly probable that the task will be imposed on me. Formally speaking, an orderly, national procedure of establishing a government cannot be started before then. Therefore, at first, we will organize to send a delegation to the president of the state and prepare for a dialogue with additional parties so that the establishment of the government will be assured, and I do not see a big problem there. Second, and at the same time, we invite whoever is ready to join a government based on our policies.

I discussed our policy at length during the election campaign, but let me emphasize it again: promoting peace, first and foremost with the Palestinian delegation from the territories, in the framework established in the Madrid conference. I do not want to change organizational structures but to fill them with content which is compatible with Israel's international commitment according to the Camp David accords for the establishment of autonomy—self- rule—for the Palestinians in the territories based on the principles of the Camp David accords.

Second: changing the order of national priorities to prevent state resources from being funneled to what I call political settlements, and I have explained more than once what exactly I mean by this—rather, giving priority to handling social issues, primarily unemployment, but other socioeconomic problems as well.

Third: We will also work for an electoral reform, according to the legislation proposed at the time by Knesset Members [MK's] Uri'el Linn, David Liba'i, Yo'ash Tzidon, and Amnon Rubinstein, and not in the distorted form in which this was passed in the Knesset.

Fourth: We will act to rehabilitate relations with the United States.

I believe it is possible to set up a stable coalition which is not based on a single left-wing party but on others, from the other side, religious and others, who will accept the fact that we head the government, and the policy of which will be as I described here. Tomorrow we will hold a Labor Bureau meeting in which we will sum things up. I assume we will not know the impact of the count of the soldiers' votes yet, but I assume it will not be such as to basically change the situation. We shall choose a negotiating team and will hold a dialogue with those who will be prepared to join us. I am the party's candidate for prime minister, and according to resolutions by the party's convention, should have, and rightly so, shouldered responsibility for the election results for the better or for the worse. As the person who has the authority to navigate matters, naturally subject to decisions by the party institutions, I want to establish a government soon that will replace the current minority government; will be stable; and will execute he tasks, policies, and national order of priorities. I will not give any more details today.

Let me only say that we have gained the public's trust because we proved that we can make changes, changes in leadership and the way this leadership, including the candidate for prime minister and the MK's, was elected, and that we are prepared to shoulder responsibility for the results of every move. I think that in today's Israel the public emphasizes both the leaders and their policies. This applies not only to Labor. We see a similar thing, albeit to a lesser degree, in what has taken place in right-wing parties too.

I have already heard in the media that contacts took place and that various people said different things, but as far as the coalition negotiations are concerned, I would like for all parties that are candidates for and that want a coalition to know one thing: Whatever is not accepted by me or by the party's secretary will be irrelevant and not binding. We are done with the system whereby all kinds of people go around holding talks without the authority and responsibility of the person who was elected and whose job in the party is to do so. There will be different teams for contacts with different parties, and this is how the negotiations will take place.

At this stage, we are not in a rush. A bureau meeting will convene tomorrow. On Friday we will know the results of the count of the soldiers' vote, even though this will not be the formal figure. Today we have all possible options to establish a government to replace the Likud government, but we want to set up a stable government which will express neither the extreme left nor the extreme right, rather one which will represent the opinion of what I believe is the majority of the Israeli public. It is easier for me to say this today, after the election results have been publicized. This is not theory anymore, but rather the result of the main democratic test: Knesset elections. Therefore, if you ask me now which party I will go with, my answer will be as follows:

My only guideline is that a stable government reflects the four points of our policy for which—as I stated before election day—there is a larger national consensus than for the positions of any other party in Israel. This is it. I will not elaborate further. I will not say anything more before I know with certainty that the election results are as they are today, namely, that we have the buffer of a 62-Knesset seat majority. We have been burned in the past, and I do not want to go through that experience again, nor will I engage in undertakings toward one party that will later conflict with working with another party. Therefore, the initial contacts will be basic and not detailed.

[IDF Radio's Yaron Deqel] Mr. Rabin, you are speaking about inviting religious and other parties for coalition negotiations. In theory, others are Moledet, Tzomet, and Likud. Moledet has already been ruled out. Will you—as the man in charge of the negotiations—invite the Likud and [Tzomet leader] Refa'el Eytan?

[Rabin] I did not say I will invite anyone. I said that I am making a general call, not addressed to anyone. At this stage I will not go into any detail beyond what I have said so far. I did, however, stress that I want a government to execute our policy.

[Qol Yisra'el's Shlomo Raz] Mr. Rabin, you spoke of the need to establish a stable government soon. Do you not fear that this stability could be lost in your own party? Let me remind you that at this very hour, the so-called Peres camp is currently in session in his office.

[Rabin] I was elected in primaries in which more than 100,000 party members cast their vote. I was elected on the basis of a conference resolution that demanded that the candidate assume personal responsibility for the results. I find it inconceivable that anyone might try to extort anything because we are through with that era. According to the party's constitution, the composition of the cabinet is the prerogative of the candidate for prime minister. I will follow this rule while ignoring matters of the past, and while employing a practical approach of examining who is best suited for each job—when I reach the stage of forming a government. I will not take any candidate's vote into consideration, whether it was for me or against me. No one will be allowed to veto my decisions on the ministerial issue.

[Deqel] Referring to Mr. Peres, is he slated for one of the three senior cabinet posts, and could you please say which? Also, could your cabinet include ministers who are not Knesset members?

[Rabin] I will not go into ministerial posts before I reach a coalition agreement and know which of the posts belong to my party and which do not.

[Raz] Do you believe, Mr. Rabin, that you will be able to establish a government during the first term of 21 days you will be alloted by the president?

[Rabin] I will not deal with prophecies.

[HA'ARETZ's Ilan Shehori] Mr. Rabin, have you already received a congratulatory phone call from U.S. President George Bush?

[Rabin] I received no phone call or congratulations from any official U.S. element. America is a democracy. It is familiar with the processes in Israel, and it knows that at this stage I am not the prime minister yet.

[Deqel] Did Yitzhaq Shamir call you?

[Rabin] No, and I did not expect that.

[HADASHOT's Moshe Perl] How many ministers will there be in your cabinet? Will the guidelines stipulate that a referendum will precede any international agreement?

[Rabin] I will not deal with the government's structure, composition, or other issues at this time. I believe that at this stage we should still act with restraint, knowing that we, and I personally, have been given a serious responsibility. Walking down the street today, I could detect the high expectations and hopes that this change has brought.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT's Nahum Barne'a] Mr. Rabin, what can you tell a person who considers buying an apartment in a settlement today?

[Rabin] I said one thing: At this time I am not dealing with the permanent solution. The first stage is establishing autonomy, self-rule, as an interim solution for a five-year transitional period. We are internationally and practically committed to this. That is why we are not dealing with the issue of the permanent solution at this time. Any attempt to introduce issues linked with the permanent solution into the negotiations at this time—whether this is done by the Palestinian delegation from the territories or by us—will, in fact, hurt the chances of attaining agreement on the establishment of autonomy—which I believe is the most important agreement.

[Barne'a] The question referred to the settlements.

[Rabin] I said, and I will repeat: Through the years I have always made the following distinction: There are settlements around greater Jerusalem and its satellite cities—which is neither a political nor a security issue. Jerusalem—freed, united, under Israel's sovereignty, and its eternal capital—is the heart and soul of the nation. The security settlements, the way I see them, are located in the Jordan Rift Valley and the Golan Heights. All others are political settlements. I will repeat my policy, which is not the result of the current state of affairs: I have always opposed Jewish settlement in areas densely populated by Palestinians in the territories. Today I make a distinction between the fate of the territories and investing billions in constructing settlements. We will stop investment of billions in the territories. We will stop investing even less. We will allocate those funds to other goals, which I consider national priorities. Reinforcing the nation, society, and economy is far more important.

[HADASHOT's Pe'erli Shahar] Mr. Rabin, I have two questions. One: It is claimed that if you set up a government without the Likud, there is a fear that you will not be able to promote the peace process because of the severe opposition the Likud will pose.

Two: Why do you not establish a government with Meretz and the support of the Arab parties at once, thus neutralizing the exaggerated demands that the ultra-Orthodox parties may make in the absence of a government?

[Rabin] Regarding the first question, I believe that once we have established a stable government, we will be able to execute our policies without the Likud. As to your second question, I want a stable government, not a minority government. I prefer this, but all the options are open.

[Deqel] You mean, Mr. Rabin, that if the ultra-Orthodox parties present exaggerated demands, you reserve the right to present a minority government with Meretz?

[Rabin] Do not interpret me. You heard what I said.

[HADASHOT's Hana Qim] Is there any hope that the interior and education portfolios will be given to secular parties or individuals, or will they again be given to the religious parties?

[Rabin] At this stage I do not know what my coalition will look like, and therefore I have not yet begun distributing portfolios or appointing ministers. The goal is not to attain a government at all costs but to make moves to secure a stable government based on our policy. I will not deal with arithmetic, only with algebra.

[MA'ARIV's Hadas Manor] During the election campaign, you directly addressed the nation asking for a mandate that will allow you to set up a government and carry out its policies. Now, one day after the elections, when in fact you were given a mandate greater than anyone expected, why are you opting for a broad-based government as an initial stage?

[Rabin] Because the mandate I was given does not allow me a government without a coalition with more than one, or even more than two, parties. That is why, under the current circumstances, I have the option—assuming that the election results we have will hold—and I will do everything I can to establish a stable government. That is to say that I want to have enough Knesset members to allow me to carry out our policies.

['AL HAMISHMAR's Dalya Shehori] The PLO is willing to talk to you. Will you talk to the PLO? Will you consider repealing the law banning meetings with PLO activists?

[Rabin] The resolutions by the Labor Party's convention, and certainly my stands, are that negotiations on the establishment of autonomy will be held with a delegation of the residents of the territories. Who they talk to.... [pauses] As long as they are our interlocutors we talk to them, conclude things with them, and carry out the resolutions with them. Let me stress: I have no problem with the residents of the territories. The PLO as an organization—no.

[Deqel] What about the law banning meetings with PLO men?

[Rabin] An amendment was proposed at the time by MK David Liba'i. We will examine it, but this is not the most urgent problem for me.

[Deqel] Can you pledge that if during the coalition negotiations the religious parties demand that the electoral system be changed back from direct election of a prime minister, you will oppose this? Will this be a red line for Labor?

[Rabin] Our stand on this issue is very clear. Nevertheless, they may have a free vote.

[Raz] I would like to go back to the issue of investments in the territories. You said that you will stop investing billions, but what about the funds the outgoing government has already approved for investment? Will you stop them, or will the plans continue as usual?

[Rabin] I am not familiar with the commitments made. I hope that in view of the results of the elections, the current government will not make any additional commitments on what I call political settlements. I cannot give you a better response before the issue is examined.

[Jerusalem Arabic Television's Shlomo Ganor] Mr. Rabin, will you appoint an Arab as minister or deputy minister in your government?

[Rabin] I have not distributed any ministerial, deputy ministerial, or other positions today. When I was prime minister years ago, we had a Druze deputy minister. There can be a deputy minister who is not Jewish. There are enough quarrels over the ministerial positions.

[DAVAR's Amir Neuman] Mr. Rabin, do you feel committed in any way to appoint a certain number of ministers of Oriental origin?

[Rabin] I think that where Labor is concerned it is unnecessary to engage in quotas [previous word in English] according to one country of origin or another. I was happy that in its primaries Labor assured representation for women, but a distribution of slots by ethnic groups was unnecessary. I am sure that Labor ranks include suitable candidates who descend from all Jewish exiles.

[Deqel] In view of what you are saying, will there be a female minister in the government?

[Rabin] I hope so. Today I do not want to say who will do what or how portfolios will be distributed.

[Barne'a] In his speech yesterday Mr. Shamir attacked you, not you, but he said that joyful outcries emanate

from the Arab countries in view of the election results. Do you think this was a proper reaction by the prime minister?

[Rabin] I hear of joyful outcries from the media too, if using such an expression is relevant at all. I think that the Arab countries will find out that I will insist on peace and security and that my view of the security component will be no less serious than that of previous governments since I believe that peace which does not contribute to security is meaningless and does not deserve its name.

[Qim] What reforms do you plan for the Histadrut labor federation?

[Rabin] I will not currently deal with all the reforms that I believe should be implemented in the country. Still, referring to things that the state should take care of, I am in favor of a national health insurance bill, for instance. I also favor a national pension law. The state should ensure a housing, education, health, and pension package for its citizens through some kind of a fee or another and should also allow the citizens more freedom of choice in determining whose services in these spheres they need.

[Local Tel Aviv paper PATISH's 'Ofer Bronstein] Will a long school day and free meals be provided under a Rabin-led government?

[Rabin] Look, when I was prime minister we began to have a long school day in certain regions. We began to give free meals to between 50,000 and 60,000 children, if I am not mistaken. These children were affected later on, and the relatively short school day was shortened by an hour to an hour and a half a day on the average, compared to when I was prime minister. It is impossible to continue to neglect education from the viewpoint of state allocations; this issue should be handled with large resources, otherwise everything we say will amount to futile talk. Therefore, it is necessary to change the order of priorities and raise funds abroad. All the points I mention regarding a struggle against unemployment and aid to young couples, discharged soldiers, and immigrants in the housing, employment, and education spheres will be mere talk without five or seven billion shekels per year from the state budget, specifically allocated to this end over and above the existing allotment, whether this will be achieved through a change in the national order of priorities—of preferring a solution to social problems to political settlements—or through raising funds abroad, as I believe is possible according to our policy. I am convinced this should be done.

A certain group of Labor members has handed me a plan involving a long school day for neighborhoods that were subject at the time to Project Renewal, aimed at rehabilitating neighborhoods and development towns. This plan provides for a long school day there and involves an expenditure of some 200 million shekels per year. I view this plan as the beginning; I cannot yet tell you how we will budget it, but this will be one of the issues to which I will attach top importance.

[ITIM news agency's Ilan Ro'i] Allow me to dwell on the Israeli public's voting patterns. It was stated in the Likud yesterday that the election results did not stem from differences in political views but from disappointment with the Likud's performance. Do you share the assessment that the public gave Labor a clear mandate because of intrigues within the Likud because this party did not function, that this explains Labor's victory, at least in part?

[Rabin] I believe there is surely more than one reason for the significant shift manifest in yesterday's vote. First and foremost, I believe that Labor managed to demonstrate that it put its own house in order; second, that it replaced its leadership; third, that it established true democratization; fourth—and today I am convinced of this, despite all you wrote and said during the election campaign—that its strategy in these elections was very effective, since for me, the test of the strategy lies in the result.

[Qim] What strategy are you referring to? The Rabin-led Labor motto?

[Rabin] This is one of the points. Reference is to target crowds, to how the public relations campaign is directed and at whom, although we must have made a mistake here and there. Generally speaking, whoever does anything is bound to err, too. Our strength lies in our ability to say that we made a mistake and that we should correct it. Those who do not admit to errors have nothing to put aright since they did nothing wrong.

[Deqel] Mr. Rabin, do you feel that you are closing a historic cycle here? The government you led lost power to the Likud 15 years ago, but now you have regained this power for Labor. How do you feel personally after last night?

[Rabin] You have a point there. [general laughter]

[Deqel] Mr. Rabin, another question, with your permission. The $10 billion in loan guarantees from the United States: What do you intend to do to advance this issue?

[Rabin] I made a general statement about my position, as an Israeli, concerning the political settlements, regardless of the issue of guarantees. I have opposed such settlements for over 20 years now. I believe that this policy, as I have described it, on peace and the national order of priorities, will make things easier. I have nothing in my pocket. I will not say anyone promised anything to me. I was Israel's ambassador in the United States for five years, and know the Americans a little; I had close contacts with them, both as prime minister and defense minister. So on the basis of experience—and although I cannot state this with certainty—I believe that it surely will be easier to obtain the guarantees, but not in return for a total freeze [of settlements], no way.

Rabin Interviewed After Elections

TA2406203692 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Interview with Labor Chairman Yitzhaq Rabin by Hanan 'Azran, Ya'aqov Ahime'ir, and Gadi Sukenik—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Ahime'ir] Regarding the government composition: many in the secular public say that this is the first opportunity ever to establish a secular government in Israel without the religious parties. Theoretically, Labor can establish a narrow-based government with Meretz, and you seem reserved, very reserved.

[Rabin] Let us first take a look at the arithmetic of politics. Assuming the results will not change, Meretz and Labor have 57 Knesset seats. As a rule, I cannot see a stable government in Israel established while leaning on HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] and Darawshah as coalition partners. I want a government with Labor in the center, since I believe its positions represent the broadest consensus more than any other party, with Meretz on the one hand, and others—religious and or other parties—on the other.

['Azran] Regarding another party; if we isolate Tzomet and if it is given free vote on the issue of autonomy, which seems to be very critical for them, could this be an opening for a possible coalition with it?

[Rabin] Look, I have not met or talked to Tzomet people or its leader, Eytan. I heard him speak to the media. I understand that Tzomet's problem is not autonomy. I do not believe that it quit the right-wing government over this issue. As far as I can recall, it quit over another matter of principle—changing the existing electoral system to a direct election of a prime minister. I believe that we and Tzomet differ over the issue of settlement and the permanent solution. I will not say now whether a solution for this problem can be found or not before talking to them, if such an opportunity arises.

[Sukenik] Now that you won the elections, the issue of the not-so-good relations between you and Peres emerges again. Will you give him a senior post in your future cabinet? Will he be foreign, defense, or finance minister?

[Rabin] Look, I want to make one thing clear. I believe that the public got tired of politics and politicians because of the lack of clarity, the absence of decisions, and all kinds of cheap wheeling and dealing. I believe that we, in our election campaign and in the party's stand, stressed that the vote is on two issues: who will be the leader, the candidate for prime minister, and the path, as it is expressed in the party's conference resolutions and its platform. The time has come for a party to follow and act in accordance with its constitution and rules. The party is headed by a single man, the candidate for prime minister. We will have to consider various elements and personalities, not a single person. There are new circles, new faces, young men; we have Qeysar, Shahal, Peres, and many others. No person will be allowed to veto the Labor party chairman, whatever his name is. Making decisions, steering, is in the hands of the candidate, subject to the decisions of the party's institutions.

[Ahime'ir] Still, Mr. Rabin, will you consider the different shades in your party—doves, hawks.

[Rabin] Certainly.

[Ahime'ir] Do you recognize the fact of a Peres-camp in Labor?

[Rabin] I do not recognize this fact. I recognize people who in the primaries supported Qeysar, me, Peres. I am convinced that, when we set up the government, we will have to select the men best suited for the jobs, while considering the diversity, the various regions in Israel, the movements, and other such matters.

['Azran] Recently you have been leveling harsh criticism at the settlements, using the term political settlements. There are some 120,000 Israeli citizens in Judaea and Samaria today. Should they be worried by your criticism and your intentions with regard to their future?

[Rabin] I make a very clear distinction between what I call political settlements, greater Jerusalem and vicinity, and the confrontation lines. Jerusalem is not a political or a security problem. Jerusalem—freed, united under Israel's sovereignty, its capital, the eternal capital of the Jewish state—is the heart and soul of the nation. It is not at all a bone of contention. I consider settlement in the Jordan Rift Valley and the Golan Heights to be of the highest priority—this is security settlement. Anything set up between them and the Green Line are political settlements. Security means the line along which an enemy is deterred against attacking. What is the line of defense, the hills of Qalqilyah or the Jordan River?

[Sukenik] With your permission, what should be the feeling of the people who reside in the area you call problematic political settlement? Should they be concerned about anything?

[Rabin] Theoretically, they should fear the commitment the State of Israel made in 1978 in the Camp David Accords. Led by the Likud, the state made this commitment, which I supported at the time. The decision to establish self-rule, autonomy for the Palestinians as an interim arrangement for a transitional period, is what I wish to implement.

[Sukenik] What does it mean? Let me be more precise: Hundreds or thousands of Jews, Israeli citizens, reside beyond the Green Line in what you generally term political settlements. Could you, or your government, leave them dry—without budgets?

[Rabin] I do not want to dry them out, but I do not want to invest in their expansion. I do not want to throw away billions of shekels there. Let me give you an example: In

some five and a half years of unity government, 3,500 housing units were budgeted in the territories. We compromised. From July 1990 until this day, I believe that 20,000 housing units were budgeted, more or less. Only a few of them were placed along the confrontation lines. I noticed no construction drive in the Jordan Rift Valley. I would welcome it, if there were any. A little more is being built now on the Golan Heights. The lions' share of construction work is in the political settlements. I regard this a political mistake, because I have always opposed settling in areas densely populated by Palestinians. Furthermore, I consider this a wrong order of national priorities. When there is unemployment among the young generation and the immigrants, every penny spent on political settlement causes real damage to the most important things in the State of Israel: the future generation and the future of aliyah.

[Ahime'ir] Will this construction stop now?

[Rabin] In terms of investing state resources—yes.

[Ahime'ir] Let me move to the important political issue. Autonomy will be established in six to nine months—as you promised or expressed a wish. What will you do to implement this? Also, do you accept the format of negotiations with the Arab countries as they have been conducted so far, meaning the bilateral and multilateral tracks?

[Rabin] When I was defense minister, I reached the conclusion that the Palestinian problem, including the intifadah, cannot be solved unless a double move is made: employing a military force within the boundaries of the law and a political solution. There was a possibility to start it then, but this is history. Today there is the Madrid formula. I do not intend to change it. I do intend to change the order of priorities in handling the various issues and, naturally, give them a new content. Priority will be given to negotiations with the Palestinian delegation from the territories, composed of residents of the territories, toward the establishment of autonomy. For example, instead of offering municipal elections, I am offering—in accordance with progress in the negotiations, once we enter practical matter such as what is autonomy. [sentence incomplete as heard] We have no intention of giving them authority over security, foreign affairs, or the Jewish settlements. We have no intention—as was the case with Sinai—of uprooting settlements.

['Azran] Mr. Rabin, the Palestinians who met with 'Arafat are expected to return to Israel soon. How will your government treat those people who have in fact violated the law banning meetings with the PLO?

[Rabin] I assume that if they return in the next several weeks, the other government will have to deal with that.

['Azran] And if they arrive when you are already in power?

[Rabin] I will answer that when I am prime minister.

[Sukenik] Do you assume or do you hope they will arrive before your time?

[Rabin] I do not deal with this issue. I consider it marginal.

['Azran] Will you act to amend the law regarding meetings with PLO men?

[Rabin] Labor presented an amendment. Knesset Member Liba'i made the offer, and we supported it at the time. The amendment includes a ban on meetings, but it considers the purpose of the meeting with PLO men. It does not revoke the ban. [passage omitted]

Government To Be Set by 13 Jul

TA2406105692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Labor Chairman Yitzhaq Rabin announced today that he will strive to set up the broadest possible government that will be able to implement the party's policy. In the first meeting of the party leadership after the elections, Rabin instructed the participants not to pursue private initiatives and not to hold contacts with other parties without permission.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Yitzhaq Rabin announced that anything not approved by him or Labor Secretary Mikha Harish will be built on sand. [In a separate report at 1005 GMT, Golan quotes Rabin as saying in the course of the meeting that "our party intends to shortly set up a stable government, a government that will replace the Likud government and will be based on Labor's order of priorities and policy. Labor will talk to any party that accepts our positions." According to Golan, Rabin also said: "We have a strong basis to set up a government, and that is why we must proceed with restraint, patience, and wisdom."]

It was further decided in the meeting to wait for the publication of the final election results before launching contacts toward setting up a coalition. Yitzhaq Rabin has called a news conference at 1600 [1300 GMT] today.

Upon emerging from the meeting, Knesset Member [MK] Shim'on Peres said that the atmosphere had been businesslike. There was no discussion of jobs or any private exchange with Rabin, Peres said.

The Labor Bureau is due to convene on 25 June, and it will apparently approve the negotiating team that will conduct the talks on the formation of the coalition. The team will apparently consist of the same leaders who attended today's meeting.

MK Hayim Ramon said that initial contacts with other parties will begin on 27 June in the evening. The strategy decided upon is to set up the broadest government possible, but one that has practical executive powers.

MK Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer added that the negotiations will be open to any party that accepts Labor's principles.

Past experience shows that the ultra-Orthodox parties side with the ruling party, he said.

At the end of the meeting it was emphasized that Labor hopes that Rabin will be able to present his new government by 13 July.

Further Reportage Following Labor Election Victory

AL-FAJR Editor Sees 'Turning Point'

TA2406110192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Telephone interview with East Jerusalem AL-FAJR's editor Hanna Sinyurah by Mark Weiss on 24 June—recorded]

[Text] [Sinyurah] We are examining closely the developments that took place last night. Personally, I see them as a turning point in the political structuring of Israeli politics at the moment. I see them in the same light like what happened in 1977, when the Israeli electorate voted out the Labor party and brought the Likud for 15 years. So, I expect that there will be positive developments in the near future, but I also do not minimize the difficulties that we are going to face ourselves.

[Weiss] I have spoken with Palestinians who told me that any real chance of peace needs the Likud in the government. It is not an opinion you will support?

[Sinyurah] Well, I think any chance of peace needs the people behind it. Here the people of Israel have voted for change. I expect that change will include a peace process that will move at a faster pace.

Der'i on SHAS Partnership in Coalition

TA2406114792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] will not set up a narrow-based government with Labor and is now checking whether Yitzhaq Rabin will be able to set up a government without its participation, Minister Arye Der'i stated a short time ago as he emerged from a meeting with Chief Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef to receive his instructions for the negotiations. [In a recorded passage on Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1115 GMT on 24 June, Der'i notes that "SHAS stands firm in its position that should the establishment of a narrow-based government under Rabin depend on its participation, it will not join." Asked whether it will join such a government if its establishment does not depend on SHAS, Der'i says: "If that is indeed the case, we will look into it."]

Minister Der'i told our correspondent Ya'el Ayalon that as things stand at the moment, the chances of SHAS being in the opposition are equal to those of its joining the coalition. Our correspondent points out that at this point, the meeting of SHAS' Council of Torah Scholars has been postponed.

Settlers Build Neighborhood in Reaction

TA2406114392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Here comes the first reaction of Jewish settlers in the territories to the outcome of the elections: Eight trailers have been placed in Kfar Adumim as a new neighborhood of the settlement. This is reported by our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld.

Settlers Council, NRP, Arabs Comment

TA2406202992

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 24 June reports that "in reaction to Yitzhaq Rabin's remarks, the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza says it will do everything it can to frustrate the autonomy plan, which is tantamount to the establishment of a Palestinian state. Our correspondent, Nitzan Hen, reports that the council will appeal this evening to the national parties that are faithful to Eretz Yisra'el, headed by the Likud, to join ranks to foil Labor's autonomy plan. The council says Yitzhaq Rabin will come to realize that autonomy is a mere statement that cannot be implemented in the area."

Also, "Palestinian public figures today expressed restrained satisfaction with the Israeli election results. Some of the Palestinian leaders said the intifadah is one of the reasons for Labor's victory in the elections because it made Israeli citizens turn to the road of peace." The report adds, "Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad members' approach was different, however. In several manifestoes they circulated this evening they rule that the intifadah will continue and escalate as long as the occupation lasts."

"A few minutes ago the NRP's [National Religious Party's] Bureau decided it will not participate in a narrow, left-wing government. The NRP views the situation that has arisen as amenable for the consolidation of a national unity government and will consider participation in it according to its Jewish principles."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 24 June reports that "several Nabulus notables this afternoon dispatched a congratulatory telegram to Yitzhaq Rabin, asking him to keep his promise and reach an autonomy arrangement in the territories within six months." "The telegram is signed by Sa'id Shahin and Sa'id Kan'an, among others."

Also, "Likud member Me'ir Shitrit, the Jewish Agency treasurer, says his party was dealt a harsh blow because it forgot its origins. According to him, the issue of Eretz Yisra'el does not equate with religion. Also, the Likud, which rose to power as a result of social issues, let this flag gather dust. Shitrit says that his party's leadership will have to include representatives from development

towns and poor neighborhoods in addition to princes [reference to sons of the Likud founders' generation, such as Beni Begin]"

Mubarak Considers Invitation to Rabin

TA2406192792 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari]

[Excerpt] President Mubarak is giving serious consideration, so we are told by reliable sources in Cairo, to initiating a meeting with Yitzhaq Rabin soon after Rabin sets up his government and after his expected trip to Washington. The intention is to try to promote understanding regarding the continuation of the peace talks, but Mubarak is very interested in convincing Rabin not to neglect negotiations with Syria in favor of fast progress on the Palestinian issue. The Egyptians fear that Rabin's inclination to give clear priority to the autonomy issue may push the Syrians into piling up obstacles. [passage omitted]

Peres Interviewed on Peace Talks

NC2406190692 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Interview with Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres by MBC Jerusalem correspondent Mahir Shalabi on 24 June; place not given—recorded; interview conducted in English with superimposed Arabic translation]

[Text] [Peres] The election results are a clear choice toward peace. Our party has a clear mandate to reach a peace.

[Shalabi] What is your message to the Arab world?

[Peres] That we need a real change in the entire Middle East. We need a new Middle East economy, with open borders, and military, with cooperation on the proliferation of nonconventional missiles and weapons so that they do not threaten our lives. We need a Middle East in which everyone can pray to God in his own language and live as humans in full respect and security.

[Shalabi] How do you foresee the new Israeli government?

[Peres] It will be the opposite of the previous government. We will start immediately with the peace process. I believe the first step will be toward self-government, from there we will move toward a lasting peace the final step of which will be building a new Middle East.

[Shalabi] Will the Labor government arrest the Palestinian negotiators who have met with Yasir 'Arafat?

[Peres] I will not answer the part about the Labor Party. However, we have said that we will negotiate with the Palestinians and that they are free to have contacts with whoever they want.

Doves Oppose Right-Wing in Coalition

TA2506051692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 25 Jun 92

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin would not rule out any of the parties, including the Likud, as potential coalition members. This position has already created tension among some of his fellow party members. This became clear yesterday, following a meeting of Hug Mashov, the dovish camp within Labor, headed by Yosi Beilin. After the meeting, Beilin called on Rabin to refrain from adding right-wing parties to the coalition and to move swiftly to amend the law which bars Israelis from meeting with members of the PLO.

[Begin Beilin recording] Well, the campaign is over. I believe that our duty now is to clarify the viewpoints of the Labor party, first of all, vis-a-vis the freeze on settlements—and we are speaking about a total freeze on all the settlements in the West Bank and Gaza. There is no differentiation in the Labor platform between strategic or political settlements.

Second, we should like to clarify that our viewpoint is that we have to find a territorial compromise on the Golan Heights and to find a territorial compromise on the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

And, the third issue: There is a decision of the Labor congress which took place half a year ago to abolish the law which forbids meetings with the PLO members. I believe what we should clarify is that we stand behind this resolution, and we should deliver the goods and bring to the Knesset another bill in order to prevent any kind of torpedoing of this law. [end recording]

Gorbachev To Help in Obtaining POW Information

TA1906201692 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1710 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev will attempt to help Israel obtain information about its POW's and MIA's. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik has learned that Gorbachev, during his visit to Israel, received a detailed message on this issue from defense establishment representatives. They asked him to use his standing and ties, and Gorbachev promised to do so.

And another diplomatic effort: Foreign Minister David Levi has instructed Binyamin Navon, Israel's ambassador to Germany, to meet expeditiously with the German state minister to ascertain whether he possesses information about navigator Ron Arad. The step was taken after the minister announced that he was in possession of facts, but refused to divulge them.

Russian Space Delegation Visits Satellite Plant

TA2206111192 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 22 Jun 92 p 5

[Report by Arye Arad]

[Text] A delegation from the Russian space industry yesterday visited Israel Aircraft Industries' [IAI] Plant B and was given a close look at developments in the 'Amos satellite projects. At the end of the tour, it was agreed to maintain contacts on issues of joint interest. No reports were issued on whether the guests were permitted a glimpse at the Ofeq satellite and Arrow missile projects.

The delegation was headed by Yuriy Semyonov, the director general of the NPO/Energia company. It was hosted by Israel Military Industries' Chairman Mordekhay Hod and Electronics Department Director Moshe Ortas, who is also in charge of Plant B.

Also yesterday, an agreement was signed between IAI and the GSC company, owned by Me'ir Amit and Hezi Karmel. The company plans to develop the 'Amos satellite's communications system and hire out its services to Israeli and foreign clients.

Profit Expected From IMI Move to Negev

TA2106115392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0905 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Excerpts] In its session today, the cabinet approved several important economic decisions. Our economic correspondent Menahem Friedman is in the studio:

The most important decision made today was to move the plants of the Israel Military Industries [IMI] from their various locations in central Israel to the Beqa' Heights in the Negev. An interministerial committee headed by Yehezqel Har-Melekh, director general of the Economics and Planning Ministry, today presented the cabinet with some technical data on the move:

The plan is to begin moving the IMI factories in about 18 months, during which the preparations and the planing this operation will be completed. Moving and reconstructing the IMI plants will cost $510 million. Some 4,600 dunams of state-owned land in various locations in central Israel will be cleared in the process, and 3,800 dunams of will be sold for some $666 million. Thus only part of the land to be cleared and sold will cover the cost of the entire operation, and the government will realize a surplus. The operation will be completed in some six years. Moving the IMI factories to the Negev will create 4,500 jobs for the residents of the south, in addition to the 1,500 IMI workers who may move south. [passage omitted]

Authorities Allegedly Manipulating CPI

TA1906201092

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 19 June carries a front-page, 1,000-word report by Ron'el Fisher, which appears under a banner headline: "The Government Caused Negative CPI by Flooding Market With Gaza Vegetables." Citing exclusive information from "senior government officials connected to the Israeli agricultural marketing," the report alleges that "the low May consumer price index [CPI] was the result of an orchestrated and premeditated flooding of markets with vegetables from the Gaza Strip," without which "the May CPI would have risen by 0.5 percent." The report adds that the quoted officials lodged a complaint with senior officials, who "refused to investigate the issue."

Fisher contends that "the method of regulating vegetable prices through the planned opening and closing of merchandise flow from the Gaza Strip has been used for a number of years now. The Defense, Finance, and Agriculture Ministries have reached the conclusion that using the Strip as Israel's vegetable storehouse will enable the authorities to regulate vegetable prices throughout the year, thereby influencing the CPI." Whenever necessary, "the Sufa checkpoint near the Nahal 'Oz, which is always closed except for this contingency, is reopened." Many trucks are allowed to leave and "their operators are issued with papers attesting to their being Palestinian collaborators and with suppliers' documents that they receive from Israeli farmers who supposedly grew the vegetable." Fisher states that those Palestinian suppliers, who are called "favorites," enjoy "security immunity."

According to the report, the official sources assert that the drastic CPI changes "stem mainly from the prices of vegetables grown in the Gaza Strip. According to current data, there are about 4,000 hothouses in Gaza—more than the total number of hothouses in all of Israel."

Stationing of UN Inspectors in Jordan Rejected

JN2506071192 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25-26 Jun 92 pp 1, 3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Jordan has turned down the idea of sanctioning United Nations inspectors in the Kingdom's territory to monitor the observance of sanctions against Iraq, a well-informed source said Wednesday. At the same time, Jordan would also try to further tighten the enforcement of the sanctions by plugging whatever loopholes there might be, officials said.

"Jordan did not and will not accept the ideas of stationing international observers in its territory to inspect its enforcement of the sanctions," said the informed source.

The source, who preferred anonymity, said there were three distinct reasonings behind the Jordanian position: the Kingdom's adherence to the international embargo on Iraq, a sense of being singled out for alleged violation of the sanctions and the fact that the presence of foreign inspectors will violate the Kingdom's sovereignty.

While affirming that the government did not and will not accept the idea—which the U.S. says is a United Nations brainchild—the official said that the Kingdom, which is "already adhering to the sanctions, will seek to ensure that no effort is spared to ensure complete enforcement of the embargo."

The official said he was "not aware of any formal presentation" of the Jordanian position to the Americans. The Reuter news agency quoted a senior government official as saying that Jordan had "formally told the United States that it rejects its plan."

Diplomatic and official sources said they doubted whether the Jordanian position would cause any serious damage to the Kingdom's relations with the United States despite reports that Washington was pressuring Amman to accept the proposal, formally known as "Aqaba Plus."

What is more important to the U.S., the diplomatic sources explained, is the observance of the sanctions rather than stationing inspectors in Jordanian territory.

"What matters is the strict enforcement of the sanctions and the Jordanian commitment to it," said one source. "As long as there is such a commitment, stationing observers and inspectors is not very relevant."

At present an American-led naval force patrolling the Red Sea is monitoring cargo traffic into and out of the Jordanian port of al-'Aqabah, which handled the bulk of Iraq-bound cargo and Iraqi exports prior to the imposition of the international sanctions in August 1990.

Under "Aqaba Plus," U.N. inspectors were to be stationed at al-'Aqabah to check all incoming and outgoing cargo and possibly at the Kingdom's borders with Iraq, and the naval enforcers in the high seas were to be withdrawn, a Pentagon spokesman said last week.

The spokesman, however, sought to distance Washington from a direct role in the effort to convince Jordan into accepting the plan by saying it was a matter between the Kingdom and the United Nations.

The Jordanian source further explained the reasonings behind the Kingdom's non-acceptance of "Aqaba Plus."

—"First of all Jordan is strictly observing all the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and the world community should take Jordan's word that it is doing all it can to enforce the sanctions."

—"Jordan believes that it is being singled out and targeted for alleged violations of the sanctions while those levelling the accusing finger at the Kingdom are overlooking the gross undermining of the sanctions by Iraq's other neighbours."

—"Jordan believes that any stationing of international observers in its territory will be a clear violation of its sovereignty."

According to another source, the Council of Ministers, in its regular meeting Tuesday, discussed the issue and endorsed the government's position.

"The ministers were briefed on the subject and the related discussions, the idea of foreign observers in Jordanian soil was rejected outright," the source told the Jordan Times.

"The Cabinet decided that Jordan has to continue the strict adherence to the sanctions, but we will not accept any violation of Jordan's sovereignty as implied in allowing foreign inspectors in Jordanian territory," said the source.

Political analysts said the government position preempts criticism from Parliament, which is dominated by Islamic fundamentalists and leftist deputies who have already expressed their opposition to the proposal on the same grounds that the senior source outlined Wednesday and expressed by House Speaker 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat on Tuesday.

American sources in Amman indicated that there would not be any comments on the issue from the embassy here, and said it was possible that the U.S. State Department might issue a statement in Washington.

In the meanwhile, arguments have also been floated that the media reports implicating Jordan in alleged violations of the sanctions against Iraq were aimed at diluting criticism of the Bush administration itself for its failure to dislodge the government of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

"There has to be some explanation why they have not been able to topple the Iraqi regime; this has come through reports that Baghdad is getting its needs,

including military hardware, to enable it to continue its hold on power," commented on observer. "And then they have to blame someone for allowing Baghdad to get what it needs. Political considerations rule out Turkey, Syria and Iran and leave Jordan as the ideal candidate to be the scapegoat."

Rejection of UN Troops Applauded

JN2506073992 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Jun 92 p 1

[Editorial: "Jordan Will Not Accept Violation of its Sovereignty"]

[Text] When the UN Security Council resolution imposing a blockade against fraternal Iraq was issued, Jordan announced its adherence to that resolution. It was a resolution issued by international legitimacy. Since then, Jordan has been committed to the resolutions of international legitimacy. It shows all due respect to these resolutions and fulfills its obligations toward them.

However, to ask Jordan to allow international or regional inspection or supervisory troops to be stationed along its border with fraternal Iraq in order to prevent or to monitor the entry of forbidden material is something which Jordan cannot accept under any circumstance.

We know that the U.S. Administration has asked Jordan to allow international troops or inspection committees to carry out such a mission. When Jordan rejected that request, given that it constitutes a violation of sovereignty on its soil, the U.S. Administration called off joint military maneuvers with Jordan and began to exercise economic and political pressure. These pressures have taken various forms and have sought to achieve various objectives.

Jordan, however, is not bothered by the cancellation of these maneuvers since it was not the party asking for them in the first place. It was the U.S. Administration that wanted these maneuvers and then called them off. This is its own business and not Jordan's. Nevertheless, no one in the world can impose anything on Jordan that infringes on its sovereignty over its land, water, and airspace.

It may be worth stating that if the UN Security Council resolution had called for stationing international troops or observers in all countries bordering Iraq, then Jordan would not have had any reservations about such a decision. But to ask Jordan alone to allow the deployment of international observers to monitor the blockade against Iraq is something which Jordan will never accept.

After all, since Iraq now has basically confirmed its total commitment to the UN Security Council resolutions and has implemented them in full, why is there this stubborn insistence on maintaining the unjust blockade against it. Our government did well when it rejected the U.S. request. Such a position reflects the dignity of the Jordanian people, who will never yield to any pressure regardless of its source.

Foreign Minister Reacts to Labor Victory

JN2406123892 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Interview with Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir by Suhayl Khuri in Amman on 24 June—recorded]

[Text] [Khuri] How do you view the results of the Israeli elections?

[Abu-Jabir] We view them with great expectation, consideration, and caution. As you know, they were important elections because they mark the end of an era, and not only Shamir's retirement. One can describe them as a political coup in Israel, especially since they symbolize the rejection of the right wing's intransigent ideological Torah slogans, and perhaps, the opening of a new page. In other words, they represent an real change in Israel's policy, and a halt in the Israeli voter's inclination toward the right wing which has been in power since 1977 until these elections.

[Khuri] Dr. Abu-Jabir, what impact will these political changes in Israel have on the peace process in the Middle East?

[Abu-Jabir] I believe they will have a great impact. However, what will this impact be, and what are its dimensions and levels? So far, we do not know. We should wait until the new Israeli government is formed to see who it will include. As you probably know, issues are important to the Israeli voters, however, people and the way they act are also important. Before giving an opinion, we must wait to see who will assume the posts, what their ideas are, and how they will act, etc. Let us remember that when Rabin was elected, he was elected as a strong man. He was elected because he is a strong man. He was a chief of staff in Israel in 1964, became Labor Party leader in 1973, and defense minister in the national coalition government in 1984. So, he came in as a strong man. Of course, he was a prime minister for some time. But, he has come to power because he is a strong man, who is capable of survival. He is a survivor [preceding word in English]. This is because he was capable of surviving political wandering, if one can say this. He was capable of defeating first Peres and then Shamir. This means that he is a man full of surprises. We must wait. This is in addition to the fact that he represents the right wing of the Labor Party. In other words, he is the extreme right of the left wing.

[Khuri] Thank you Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir.

[Abu-Jabir] Thank you.

Further on Minister's Reaction

JN2506104092 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Jun 92 pp 1, 26

[Text] Amman, PETRA—Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir has said: The way we view the Israeli elections is that we want to see in position a government willing to deal in a serious and effective manner with the peace process and the Palestine question, which remains the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Commenting on the results of the Israeli elections and the Labor Party's victory in a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, Abu-Jabir stated: The future Israeli Government must get us out of the whirlpool we have encountered in previous rounds of the peace process, which concentrated on procedural issues, and begin a serious and effective discussion of substantive issues.

Dr. Abu-Jabir said: The future government must begin to discuss substance, particularly with regard to the halting of settlement activities; withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, including Holy Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, southern Lebanon, and Jordanian territories; and implementing the pertinent resolutions of international legitimacy.

When asked about his interpretation of the Labor Party's victory and whether it constitutes a change in Israeli society, the foreign minister responded: Undoubtedly, it marks a radical change in Israeli politics. Everyone knows that Israel was governed by the Labor Party for a long time. In 1977, the Israeli voter began to move toward the right. The outcome of these elections indicates, therefore, that this drift to the Israeli right has stopped, at least at this phase. This in itself means the end of an era and the beginning of a new chapter in Israeli politics.

When asked what impact the Labor Party's victory will have on the progress of the peace process, Dr. Abu-Jabir said: Any change in the course of Israeli politics will reflect on the peace process.

He cautioned against being overly optimistic in assessing the election results, which are still semi-official. He asserted that one should wait until the new Israeli Government is formed, especially since people play an important role in deciding Israeli policy.

Asked about the difference between the Likud and Labor proposals, the minister responded: I wonder if the differences between the two parties really reach a level meeting the minimum of the legitimate Arab demands.

He pointed out that Rabin gives priority to Israeli security, wants to keep Jerusalem united, and rejects withdrawal to the 1967 borders.

Paper Warns Against Optimism

JN2506101092 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Jun 92 p 1

[Editorial: "The Arabs and Israeli Election Results"]

[Text] Even if the Israelis interpret the results of their parliamentary elections as a political coup within their own arena, Arabs must react very cautiously to these results.

The ball did not leave the Israeli court as a result of the success achieved by the Labor Party. Rabin has to prove by deed that the results he has achieved can only be interpreted as a move toward peace. He must deal with time as a factor that can expedite such a move, a factor that does not allow for any procrastination.

It may be worth recalling here that there is a major difference between the positive intentions, which some people think Rabin has, and his performance. Therefore, one should wait until the new Israeli government is formed and has announced its program. Only then will it become clear if its rise to power means a genuine Israeli move toward peace, or if it is merely an extension of the Likud government, in terms of objectives, that is, although it may follow different methods.

Thus, it may be necessary to say bluntly that there is no need to be over optimistic. There is also no reason to think that the Labor Party's victory provides a guarantee for progress in the peace process. This progress depends on the extent to which the future Israeli Government complies with UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of exchanging land for peace. This progress also hinges on the future government's performance in the negotiations and its treatment of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

In any case, the results of the Israeli parliamentary elections should not produce any slackness in support for the glorious intifadah. The intifadah is the Palestinian negotiator's dependable aide and provides support for his serious effort to regain the Palestinian people's rights on their soil and to build a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Representatives Condemn U.S. Burning Iraqi Crops

JN2406112692 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Jun 92 p 3

[Excerpt] Amman—Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, speaker of the House of Representatives, and House members have condemned the U.S. aircraft flights over northern Iraq and the burning of crops there.

In a statement issued yesterday, the House said that this action contradicts the principles of the UN Charter, and aims to starve the Iraqi people. Following is the text of the statement:

During its session on 22 June 1992, the Standing Bureau of the House of Representatives took cognizance of the Iraqi Government's 20 June 1992 memorandum on the U.S. aircraft flights over certain areas in northern Iraq and the dropping of incendiary substances on farms and villages which resulted in the burning of crops.

The Standing Bureau, in the name of the Jordanian House of Representatives, strongly condemns this provocative action, which violates the principles of international law, international legitimacy, and the UN Charter. This action seeks to starve the Iraqi people. It also violates the unjust sanction resolutions imposed on the fraternal Iraqi people. Moreover, it entrenches the arrogant mentality of the U.S. Administration, and effectively contributes toward escalating tension in the entire region, which is in a dire need of intense efforts to attain more security and stability.

The Jordanian House of Representatives, which condemns this inhuman act, urges all parliamentary and humanitarian organizations to condemn and denounce this action and its perpetrators from the international alliance forces. [passage omitted]

PLO Chairman 'Arafat Departs Amman 24 Jun

JN2406143392 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn bid farewell to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat after a 26-day visit to Jordan during which he underwent surgery at the al-Husayn Medical Center. The Palestinian president also held talks with His Majesty King Husayn and high-ranking Jordanian officials on the situation in the region, the recent developments in the peace process, and the coordination between the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations on the level of Arab parties participating in the peace process.

Moreover, 'Arafat chaired an expanded and joint meeting for the Palestinian leadership and the Palestinian delegation taking part in the peace process.

On hand to bid farewell to President 'Arafat was Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, Royal Hashemite Court Chief Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir, and the Palestinian ambassador in Amman.

Iranian Official, Delegation Leave Amman 23 Jun

JN2406141092 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1100 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Amman, 24 Jun (PETRA)—Engineer Mehdi Mofidi, the Iranian deputy minister of heavy industries, and his delegation left Amman yesterday evening after an official three-day visit to Jordan during which he met with a number of high-ranking Jordanian officials.

During his visit, Engineer Mofidi held economic talks with Jordanian officials from the public and private sectors on means to develop and reinforce economic and trade cooperation between the two countries.

Engineer Mofidi attended the inauguration of the Iranian industries fair held in Amman yesterday evening. The fair seeks to acquaint Jordanian citizens with the standard of various Iranian products.

King Husayn Receives Turkish Minister of State

JN2406131992 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Turkish Minister of State Erman Sahin at the Royal Hashemite Court this morning. Bilateral relations and fields of cooperation between the two friendly countries and means to reinforce them were discussed during the meeting.

The meeting was attended by Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur, minister of industry and trade, and the Turkish ambassador in Amman.

Nasrallah on U.S. Request To Rein In Hizballah

NC2506104192 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0900 GMT 25 Jun 92

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah affirmed that Washington asked Syria more than once to suppress Hizballah. In an interview with our radio, he said that what was recently said about this issue was not new but a reaffirmation of previous requests made by the United States to Damascus. Nasrallah affirmed that Syria supports the Lebanese people's right to defend their land and existence and to regain the occupied territory. This is a firm and unchanging position by the brothers in Damascus, he said. He noted the existence of great pressure on the Syrian leadership because of its adherence to its positions.

Nasrallah ruled out an Israeli invasion of Lebanon, attributing the reason to the political restrictions that exist on the regional and international levels and to certain calculations which prevent Israel from undertaking a wide-scale operation, especially as such an operation could torpedo the settlement process championed by Washington. The U.S. President needs this settlement process for election purposes, he said.

Regarding the possibility of Israeli aggression against the southern suburb of Beirut and al-Biqa' following Lubrani's [Israeli Government coordinator of Lebanese affairs] statement, Nasrallah said: There are no limits to Israel's aggression in any form. We expect aggression of this sort and are taking precautions.

Nasrallah called for adopting a comprehensive and balanced solution to the problem of the displaced. He said that the people are being classified on sectarian and regional bases. This is a serious matter. The issue is humanitarian more than political or sectarian. Therefore, we have called for a serious comprehensive solution, and that all displaced people be treated equally.

Reaction to Israeli Election Results Reported

Speaker—Likud, Labor 'Same Coin'

NC2506073292 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 25 Jun 92

[Dispatch from radio correspondent Wasif 'Awadah in Cairo—recorded]

[Excerpts] In his first comment about the results of the Israeli elections, Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni said there is no difference between the Labor Party and the Likud, because they are two sides of the same coin. He said the new Israeli Government will face a real test regarding its desire for peace, noting that this desire can be manifested in Israel's immediate withdrawal from Lebanese territory.

Al-Husayni, who will return to Beirut from Cairo this evening, was speaking at a news conference last night organized by the foreign correspondents association in Egypt at its headquarters in Cairo. A crowd of foreign and Arab correspondents attended the conference.

Asked for his opinion about the outcome of the Israeli elections and whether he expects the situation in Lebanon and the prospects for peace to improve as a result, al-Husayni said: There is no difference among Israeli leaders who win in elections. We have gone through periods when the Labor Party was in power and others when the Likud was in control. He added: The problem is that Israel has not yet decided whether to pursue the peace option. This requires more seriousness and clarity than the steps which have been made so far. Israel has refused to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425, has violated the truce agreement, and since the Madrid conference has not indicated it wants peace by withdrawing from Lebanese territory. There is no connection between the occupied Lebanese territory and the occupation of Arab territories in 1967. Therefore, we think that the new Israeli Government will face a real test, given that withdrawal from Lebanon would indicate Israel's desire for peace.

Asked how he views the future following the Labor Party's victory, al-Husayni said: History does not encourage us to be optimistic. We hope we are wrong about this. He added: Unless there is immediate withdrawal from Lebanon, there will be no hope for progress in the peace efforts, particularly before the U.S. elections, and there is nothing indicating Israel has resolved to pursue peace in the region.

Asked whether the mission of the higher Arab committee in Lebanon has ended, al-Husayni said the committee has ended its task, but always welcomes help. The committee's efforts are not as important as those of international parties, particularly the United States, which is primarily responsible for bringing about implementation of the first article of the al-Ta'if agreement regarding Lebanon's liberation from Israeli occupation. [passage omitted]

Answering a question about the hostages issue, al-Husayni stressed that Lebanon does not bear responsibility for the kidnapping of hostages on its territory. The more powerful the state becomes, the more we can prevent such actions, he said.

Asked about the economic situation and ways to revive the economy, al-Husayni said: The war has destroyed most of the infrastructure in Lebanon. When Lebanon receives aid, it will rebuild this infrastructure, thus allowing reconstruction and attracting capital investment.

Asked whether there are Arab commitments to participating in the reconstruction, he said: A desire for extending assistance was expressed, and resolutions have been issued by successive Arab summit conferences to extend financial aid to Lebanon. The major part of this aid, however, estimated at $1.6 million, has not been paid. We think this sum will help Lebanon revive its national economy. [passage omitted]

Asked about the amount of money needed to rebuild Lebanon, al-Husayni said: Lebanon needs tens of billions of dollars to return to its prewar situation. But we will not burden the fraternal and friendly states with such amounts. The Lebanese people are strong, and after receiving the aid I noted before, which is about $2 billion, they can continue reconstruction. [passage omitted]

Hizballah's Nasrallah Comments

NC2506104892 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0900 GMT 25 Jun 92

[Text] Commenting about the results of the Israeli elections, Hizballah Secretary General Nasrallah said: There is no difference between the Likud and the Labor Party. They are two sides of the same coin. They are both the same with regard to principles, strategy, plans, dreams, and aspirations, although they might differ in tactics, in the way they lie to the peoples of the area, and in the methods leading to the achievement of their principles. Therefore, we do not expect anything drastically new in Israeli policy, which is based on aggression and crime. On the eve of the elections, Rabin pledged to suppress the intifadah. Furthermore, his position on southern Lebanon and the Golan is no different from that of the Likud.

Sayyid Nasrallah added: Our position on the settlement issue is based on an understanding of the nature of the Israeli enemy and the ambitions and plans of the United States in the region. Therefore, we say that any talk about reviving the settlement process is for media purposes only. Things will remain the same.

Nasrallah—Hostage File 'Not Closed Yet'

LD2306221292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah, secretary general of the revolutionary movement of Lebanese Hizballah, called on the government of Lebanon to appoint a special committee to investigate the issue of the hostages detained by the Zionist regime. During a news conference today while announcing the above he said: Contrary to the claims of some Lebanese officials, the hostage file is not closed yet. As long as even one Lebanese is trapped in prisons of the Zionist regime this file will remain open.

The Progressive Druze Socialist Party of Lebanon, issuing a statement today, demanded the release of the hostages and announced: As long as the fate of all the hostages is not made clear, their files will not be closed.

Israel Issues New Passes for Lebanese Workers

NC2406121692 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1030 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Our correspondent in the south reports that the occupation forces told civil administration officials under their control in the western and central sectors that they will soon issue new, blue passes to citizens who travel in and out of the occupied strip. They have also asked Lebanese who work inside Israel to obtain new passes that were recently issued.

Commentary Views Islamist 'Onslaught' in Egypt

NC2506083892 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 25 Jun 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful: The Egyptian authorities are stepping up their ferocious onslaught against the Islamists with the aim of destroying their freedom and broad popular support. The Egyptian regime is exploiting the recent incident between the Islamists and the sons of the Coptic sect. It is not unlikely that the regime was the primary mover behind that sedition. It constantly is heightening the tension between the two groups and sowing seeds of sectarian strife and problems among the Egyptian people, particularly as its earlier attempts to destroy the Islamists' presence in the country's towns and villages have failed. The regime wants to divert the danger from itself to the citizens, who consequently burn in the fire of governmental conspiracies. Undoubtedly the security and political regime in Egypt seeks to exploit the Asyut incidents to further its plan of exterminating the Islamists under the slogan of quelling sectarian strife and other slogans of profiteering. All this reveals that Egyptian governmental agencies provoke hatred among the people.

It is not strange that this regime should try to drive a wedge between the Islamists and others. The first master of such seditions was Anwar al-Sadat, who on several occasions inflamed the masses in order to blame individuals or parties that he was trying to eliminate. On the pretext of suppressing sectarian strife, al- Sadat used to incite the public against this or that party and blame it for incidents which always were arranged by official agencies.

Many remember how, after he signed the Camp David agreements, that al-Sadat tried to provoke a quarrel between the Islamists and the Nasirites and leftists in order to divert the public's attention and distract the popular liberation forces from realizing the dangers of making peace with the enemy. He sought to keep the Egyptians preoccupied with crises that benefited only the regime. Everyone recalls that the sword al-Sadat drew to slaughter his people eventually severed his own head. This happened when the honorable Islamists understood that the source of corruption and disaster was the head of the regime, who conspired against his people, placed their destiny at risk, and tried to keep seditions and hatred alive.

Since Husni Mubarak studied at al-Sadat's school and learned conspiratorial methods from the same suspect sources, we are seeing al-Sadat's image returning to life.

We see the same hands which provoked sectarian trouble in the past maneuvering now in order to attack the Islamists based on the current allegations, of which the Egyptian regime itself is not innocent.

This is the practice of Arab regimes: Whenever they feel their ability to maneuver reduced and are in trouble with their people, they provoke dissension among the public in order to find justification for brutal repression and intimidation. The judgment that fate and tradition passed on al-Sadat, the innovator of sectarian strife in Egypt, will befall his successor Husni Mubarak, who is now playing with fire that will burn him.

Certainly the Egyptian Islamists, currently the victims of persecution and ugly massacres and whose struggle is hideously misrepresented, will realize the dangerous government scheme to exterminate them. Likewise the other sects will understand the serious implications of complying with the ruling regime's plots. The regime wants to cast all the people into the abyss and the slaughterhouse of sectarian conflict, which benefits none except its instigators. Will the Egyptian regime desist from completing this divisive scheme? The threads of the scheme might slip from its creators' hands and consign them to oblivion like al-Sadat.

Al-Sulh—Elections Will 'Definitely' Be Held

NC2406120592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh affirmed today that parliamentary elections will definitely be held, adding that no deputy will be appointed for any area. He said that determining the constituencies on the basis of governorates in some areas and districts in other areas is a temporary measure that will only be used once.

During an audience with a delegation from the Lebanese Press Association, led by Press Doyen Muhammad al-Ba'labakki, al-Sulh noted that 20 years have passed since the last parliamentary elections were held, and this in itself is sufficient reason to hold the elections soon.

Al-Sulh stressed that freedom is the basis of Lebanon's existence, noting that the most basic freedom is freedom of expression.

Al-Ba'labakki quoted al-Sulh as saying that the Lebanese people must vote for a new Chamber of Deputies. He added: We asked many questions about the parliamentary elections and the policies adopted by various parties on the issue of holding them this summer. Al- Sulh said that the government has done its duty and submitted an elections bill to the Chamber of Deputies for discussion, noting that the chamber's decision will be binding.

Al-Sulh has been in a meeting with President al-Hirawi at the temporary presidential residence for some time now.

Fadlallah Urges Resistance to Cultural Challenges

NC2506075492 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 25 Jun 92

[Text] Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah announced that the era in which we now live—as Arabs and Muslims—is a very difficult one, because a certain major power is trying to control the world and subordinate the interests of all oppressed nations to its own. He added: Hence we must divide the roles. Intellectuals must confront the cultural challenge, politicians must consolidate the political situation, and the mujahidin must confront the security and military challenge.

His eminence continued that we must not act on an individual basis but on a national level, because leaders go but the nation persists in the form of institutions and as a force that looks to the future.

Ayatollah Fadlallah added that there is no room for lethargy or neutrality in this world-wide battle, because the nation's energy is that of all its members and everyone who does not use his energy is depriving the nation of it.

Ayatollah Fadlallah declared: Anyone who supports those who deviate from the right path is a traitor to his nation and duty.

Financial Situation Discussed With IMF Envoy

Meeting Held at Finance Ministry

NC2406125992 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Excerpts] A quadripartite meeting of Finance Minister Dr. As'ad Diyab, Economy Minister Dr. Samir al-Maqdisi, Bank of Lebanon Governor Michel al-Khuri, and Dr. 'Abd-al-Shakur Sha'lan, head of the IMF Middle East Department, was held at the Finance Ministry this morning to discuss the financial and economic situation and the need for monetary stability in Lebanon. An atmosphere of complete understanding prevailed at the meeting, particularly on the part of the IMF envoy with regard to the government's policies and its efforts to promote economic growth.

After the meeting, the participants expressed their satisfaction and noted the importance of the plan to improve the Lebanese economy. [passage omitted]

Dr. Sha'lan said:

[Begin recording] [Sha'lan] After the formation of the new Cabinet, the Lebanese Government invited me here to discuss its views on economic reform. What I heard today is very encouraging. God willing, we will discuss the details in the coming days. I am hopeful that the government's program will have a positive effect on international aid and aid from international organizations such as the IMF and the World Bank.

[Unidentified correspondent] Dr. Sha'lan, what is the current role of the IMF in supporting and assisting Lebanon, particularly in terms of loans and other aid?
[Sha'lan] The aid will first be technical in nature and from the standpoint of [words indistinct] assisting Lebanon under the supervision of the World Bank and the IMF.

[Unidentified correspondent] Will other delegations be visiting Lebanon?
[Sha'lan] God willing, delegations from the World Bank and the IMF will visit Lebanon.

[Unidentified correspondent] Are you optimistic about Lebanon's future?
[Sha'lan] After what I heard today, I am very optimistic.
[passage omitted] [end recording]

Al-Hirawi Receives Sha'lan

NC2506105292 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0900 GMT 25 Jun 92

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi today met with Dr. 'Abd-al- Shakur Sha'lan, head of the IMF's Middle East Department, in the presence of Bank of Lebanon Governor Michel al-Khuri.

After the meeting, Sha'lan said they discussed the economic situation, noting that the results were encouraging. He maintained that the IMF will approve the plan which the government is seeking to formulate, and expressed his optimism if the government adopts the necessary measures. Sha'lan said an IMF delegation will arrive in Beirut next week for consultations with officials in this regard.

Prime Minister Asked To Form New Government

JN2406202692 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi tendered his resignation to President Hafiz al-Asad. The president accepted the resignation and asked Mr. al-Zu'bi to form a new government. The president asked the outgoing government to manage the country's affairs until the new government has been formed.

Reaction to Labor Party Win in Israeli Elections

Al-Shar'—'No Regrets' for Shamir

JN2406114792 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1120 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Commenting about the results of the Israeli elections, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today stated the following: There will be no regrets over Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's downfall in the general elections. We cannot prejudge the policy Labor Party leader Yitzhaq Rabin will adopt toward the peace process. The foreign minister added: There is no doubt that there will be no regrets over Shamir's departure, either by the region or the world, because his previous policy placed the peace process in a deadlock. Al-Shar' added: We in Syria judge the policies of states through actual practice and, consequently, we cannot prejudge the policy Rabin will adopt toward the peace process. Al-Shar' emphasized Syria's commitment to the peace process that began in Madrid in October last year. He said Syria was and still is with a peace process that leads to a complete and comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and on all fronts in accordance with the initiative stemming from the Madrid conference.

He said Syria believes any solution that is not comprehensive and that does not lead to implementing Resolutions 242 and 338 on all fronts cannot lead to peace and security in the region and will conflict with the commitments made by U.S. President George Bush.

Commentary Views Labor Victory

JN2406151092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Semi-final results in Israel indicate that the Zionist Labor Party has won the Knesset elections held yesterday, and that it secured better results than its rival, the Likud Bloc. It won by a margin that may enable it to form the next Israeli Government, lead Israel during the coming stage, and determine the fate of several standing problems that face Israel, foremost of which is the peace process.

From our position and in our view of all developments that are occurring in Israel, we have repeatedly expressed our belief that to us there is no difference between one Israeli party and another, because they do not differ in the degree of their hostility toward us and their insistence on the policy of aggression, expansion, and the occupation of Arab territories. We say that we have repeatedly expressed this belief, and the near future will be a chance for those who are deceived by the moderate faces, which the Labor Party shows, to get rid of these notions and realize that the maximum limit of Israeli parties moderation will not lead them to accept the concept of peace as approved by the international community, which is based on peace and the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Everyone knows that many observers will view the progress made by the Labor Party in yesterday's Knesset elections as a victory for the U.S. wager, according to which Washington believes it can advance the peace process and relieve it from the stalemate that it has witnessed over the past months as a result of the Likud's positions. Despite this belief, there is still the question of whether the recent electoral program of the Labor Party encourages such a belief. Has anyone read or heard from any leader of this party who shows the seriousness of the Labor Party to attain a just peace or that it accepts the UN resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338? Has anyone read or heard that Yitzhaq Rabin, who has a famous history of waging wars and occupying Arab territories, intends to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories, return the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people, relinquish the policy aggression and expansion, and stop constructing settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the rest of the occupied territories?

What we have heard and read during the recent electoral campaign in Israel stressed that Labor and Likud are competing in rejecting the international resolutions dealing with the region's crisis and are racing to win the Zionist vote on the basis of more violence with the Arabs and on emptying the peace process of its real content and its objective of realizing a just and lasting peace. What could be changed now, and can Washington assert its wager and employ pressure on Israel's leaders, who are preparing today to assume power so as to lean toward justice? Or has nothing changed in Israel, and Shamir's steps all these years—which have been so ugly and far away from justice—will be completed by Rabin without the slightest deviation?

Daily Warns Against 'Hasty Conclusion'

JN2506094392 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 25 Jun 92

[From the Press Review]

[Text] In its editorial today, the AL-BA'TH newspaper discusses the results of and reactions to the Israeli elections. Commenting about pronouncements that the results constitute a victory for peace and the peace process, the paper stresses that this is a hasty conclusion that ignores many facts. The paper recalls several statements made by Rabin about the peace process. It notes

that he has ignored the primary principles on which the peace process in the region is based.

AL-BA'TH writes: At any rate, statements and slogans are one thing, and actions are another. Now that the elections and their battles have ended, the time for action and testing has come. As a top priority, Rabin's upcoming government will have to answer the new-old question: Will the rulers of Israel accept the implementation of international legitimacy or not? We mean, that is, are they going to accept the UN principles, charter, and resolutions relevant to the Palestine question and the Middle East? More specifically, do they now accept the U.S. initiative, which launched the peace process on the basis of a land-for-peace principle and an earnest implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338?

AL-BA'TH adds: Syria and the Arabs have been ready to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region on the basis of international legitimacy and UN resolutions. They welcome any step toward achieving this peace. They are ready to continue the peace process in all sincerity with a view to establishing a just and comprehensive peace that restores occupied Arab territories, acknowledges the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, and ensures security and stability to all parties.

The paper continues: Aside from making predictions or falling into a trap of illusions and exaggerations about Rabin's statements and his party's policy for the upcoming stage and despite the fact that the Labor Party's record on the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict is not that bright—especially with respect to international legitimacy and efforts to bring about peace, it can be emphasized that the near future, the very near future, will clarify what sort of page Rabin is going to write. What positions will be adopted toward the peace process, toward its specific and declared fundamentals, and toward the well-known requirements for peace will soon become clear. Their truth will appear in the framework of a practical test. What matters, first and foremost, is actions not words.

Minister of State Meets PRC Friendship Official

JN2406195492 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Damascus—Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, this evening received (Liu Fengping), deputy chairman of the Chinese-Syrian Arab Friendship Society. During the meeting, discussions dealt with the relations of friendship and cooperation between Syria and the PRC, as well as means to promote and consolidate these relations in serving the shared interests of both friendly countries and peoples. The minister also explained to the guest delegation Syria's position on the peace process and the obstacles placed by Israel to abort this process by pursuing an aggressive, expansionist policy rejecting withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories; recognizing the Palestinian Arab people's national, legitimate rights; and implementing pertinent UN resolutions.

Afghanistan

Mojaddedi Power Transfer Postponed to 29 Jun

LD2406172292 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Esteemed listeners of Radio Afghanistan. Please pay attention to this item of the news which has just arrived:

A session of the Jehad Council, chaired by esteemed Hazrat-e Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, President of the Jehad Council and embodiment of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, was held today. It was decided at today's session of the Jehad Council that although the term of office of esteemed Hazrat-e Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, Embodiment of the Islamic State, will end on Monday, 29 June, and (?the transfer of power) was scheduled for 25 June, because of the absence of most members of the Leadership Council, the ceremony for the transfer of power is being (? postponed) until Monday.

Hazrat-e Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, President of the Jehad Council and Embodiment of the Islamic State, hereby respectfully asks all leaders of the jehadi formations to take part in this ceremony at 1500 on Monday, 29 June.

Mojaddedi Explains Change

LD2406173492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, Afghan president ad interim, has declared that, contrary to an earlier agreement, he will hand over power only to the Jehad Council of the leaders of the Afghan mojahedin.

In a news conference today, he said that the Peshawar agreement was earlier violated by some groups. He considered the formation of a leadership council by Burhanoddin Rabbani, the control of the activities, actions, and instructions of the ad interim president by Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and the censuring of interviews and announcements of the interim government by the Hezb-e Jam'iyat-e Eslami party as clear violations of the Peshawar agreement and said that, although the Afghan jehad commanders, ulema, and dignitaries called for the continuation of his presidency in direct meetings with him, he did not intend to hand over the government to those who violated the Peshawar agreement, but only to the representatives of the people in the Jehad Council.

Regarding the question whether handing over power to the Jehad Council will create a political vacuum in the country, Mr. Mojaddedi said: The status quo in Afghanistan, under the current circumstances, does not depend on individuals. Therefore, certainly, handing over power to the representatives acceptable to the people will fill such a vacuum.

Ettehad-e Eslami Criticizes Mojaddedi

LD2406142592 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Dari to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Professor [Rasul] Sayyaf [leader of Ettehad-e Eslami] in a message published by the BUNYAN agency, has said that Mojaddedi occupies a [word indistinct] situation. We did not consider it suitable for him in the past and nor are we satisfied with it now. Mojaddedi has carried out some tasks for his presidency which are not only an open violation of the limits and authority assigned to him, but are contrary to Islamic principles and values. I believe that these deeds by Mojaddedi not only will not benefit him in this world, but will harm his next world too.

He adds that he would like to draw the attention of our mojahed nation to these unlawful and unprincipled deeds by Mojaddedi and once again emphatically announce the following:

1. The tasks carried out by Mojaddedi are outside his authority and are under Leadership Council's authority. Thus they do not have any legal value.

2. Participation of formations in the government and the allocation of their share is also the task of the Leadership Council.

3. We have worked for the formation of pure Islamic order and will never be satisfied with an order in whose administration and organs non-Muslim and doubtful elements take part.

4. We reemphasize the Peshawar decisions and will not allow anyone [to hold power] even one day longer than the time allocated.

5. The Muslim Afghan nation has given a lot of sacrifices and is ready for further sacrifices. It will not be satisfied with any thing else but an Islamic government.

In the end he stresses that security in Afghanistan will never be established except through the direct control and supervision of the mojahedin.

Mas'ud, Dostam Supporters Clash in Kabul City

LD2406160392 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Fighting is going on in Taimani Wat, Afshar, and around Balahesar in Kabul City. A correspondent for Radio Message of Freedom reports from inside Kabul City that yesterday afternoon fighting broke out in Taimani Wat between pro-Iranian Hezb-e Wahdat and Gilam Jam militia [Dostam forces] when Gilam Jam militia refused to pay an oil vendor.

Similar fighting has broken out in Afshar and the eastern area of Balahesar between Gilam Jam militia and mojahedin of the Supervisory Council of the North because

Gilam Jam militia have broken their pledge to Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and now support acting president [as heard] Sebghatollah Mojaddedi instead of the Supervisory Council.

The report adds that fighting continued into the evening but nothing is known about the consequences.

Rival Groups Kabul Exchange Fire 24 Jun

BK2406153692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Rival groups in Afghanistan fired rockets on each other in Kabul and its suburbs this morning and the shelling stopped in the afternoon, when business activities also resumed. Earlier, more than 12 explosions occurred in certain areas in Kabul during a period of about two hours. Some buildings in the central city areas were targeted. Radio Pakistan correspondent Yunus Soze has reported from Kabul that initially some rockets landed in the city when the streets were full of people on their way to work. Business activities immediately suspended and traffic and office attendance remained thin. However, the Radio Pakistan correspondent reports that leaders of the two groups later agreed on a cease-fire. The extent of loss of life or property has not been ascertained.

Islamic Party Rejects 'Rumors' of Assault on Kabul

LD2406174992 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Statement issued by Islamic Party of Afghanistan]

[Text] Muslim and noble residents of Kabul: There have recently been some rumors in Kabul City that Islamic Party of Afghanistan forces will very soon launch an attack on Kabul City. While we strongly refute this propaganda of the enemies of Islam and the dominant coalition-makers in Kabul, we note that the Islamic Party of Afghanistan considers defense of the security, tranquility, life, property, and honor of all compatriots, especially the Muslim and oppressed residents of Kabul, as our first and foremost duty.

It was for this noble reason that the conquering forces of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan voluntarily evacuated the city of Kabul to prevent the terrorism and barbarism of the reckless gunmen of the coalition. If the Islamic Party of Afghanistan had wanted fighting and killing in the city of Kabul, it would never have withdrawn from the city, and Kabul city could have turned Kabul into Beirut, the capital of Lebanon. But despite the spread of shameful rumors of the enemy and jealous rivals, we withdrew all our forces for the protection of the rights, property, and life of the very noble and afflicted residents of Kabul, and put up defenses in the city's environs and prepared the ground for all facilities for our Muslim fellow residents.

We restored electricity in Kabul city and allowed convoys of food and other essentials to get through to the residents of Kabul because our aim is to ensure the material and moral life of the members of the nation, especially residents of Kabul city. In that way we strongly condemn any kind of armed clashes which will cause the death and killing of our fellow residents of Kabul, and declare our disavowal of such savagery. We also assure the Muslim and afflicted residents of Kabul that we never want to help anyone accede to power or to overthrow some others. But if those savage and reckless gunmen do not refrain from attacking the lives and property of our fellow residents of the city, we will do our duty and not remain silent but will purge the city of Kabul from the dirt of looters and attackers. If we are forced to fight, we will attack military targets, and will strongly refrain from street-to-street and house-to-house fighting, and will not act in such a way as to hurt the defenseless citizens of Kabul.

India

'Offensive' Pentagon Document Examined

BK2306031892 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 8 Jun 92 p 9

[By Yashwant Deva: "Devious Volte-Face by Pentagon"]

[Text] When the Pentagon described India as the "hegemonic state" whose "aspirations" in South Asia need to be restrained, it sent a wave of indignation in this country and when the final DEFENCE PLANNING GUIDANCE deleted this offensive estimate, there was a sigh of relief, even reassurance. In the entire episode, two pertinent questions come to the fore; one, was the NEW YORK TIMES story a deliberate leak; two, if not, has there been a change of heart? Let us examine these questions a posteriori to help us in parting the fog.

India was not the only target of the earlier offensive document. It had hurt many amongst the US allies and erstwhile foes alike. The US, donning a self-proclaimed leadership mantle with a view to upholding the new world order, had made loaded references aimed at convincing the potential competitors that they need not aspire to a greater role or pursue a more aggressive posture to protect their interests. This had generated misgivings amongst the allies, relatively more sensitive to the US hegemonic proclivities. The precipitation of the Franco-German initiative for creation of a joint Euro-corps with rapid reaction capabilities, and the adverse Anglo-Saxon reaction thereafter, should be seen in that context. Obviously, the Pentagon had overestimated the willingness of the allies to accept US leadership, its role as outside promoter of security and sole protector of the new world order.

To Moscow, the earlier document reflected continuity in Pentagon's assumptions about American interests in the world, potential threat to them and feasible responses, despite changes in the international distribution of

power. That Russia "will remain the strongest military power in in Euro-Asia and the only power in the world with the capability of destroying the US," is an incontrovertable fact, though overstated in the light of new realities.

The Joint Strategic Planning System (JSPS) of the Pentagon, though a vital contributor to the national security planning, is independent of it. Six documents are prepared, either annually or biennially; these are Intelligence Priorities for Strategic Planning, Joint Intelligence Estimate, Joint Programme Assessment Memorandum, Joint Security Assistance Memorandum, Joint Strategic Capability Plan, and the most important of these, Joint Strategic Planning Document. The last mentioned provides advice to the President and the Secretary of Defence on matters connected with strategy and force structure, based on a comprehensive military appraisal of the threat to national security. This inter-alia and other documents, serves as input to the DEFENCE PLANNING GUIDANCE, which is the subject of current controversy.

The DEFENCE PLANNING GUIDANCE focuses on variables and makes recommendations for changes in the defence policy. Its importance lies in highlighting risk reduction measures and emphasising programmes and missions which should receive budgetary support. The defence planning in the US follows a 20-year cycle and the planning documents cover the mid-range period, i.e., one to ten years. Whatever Dick Cheney may say, the US security policy has not changed, and it has not changed because the policymakers' "strategic codes" have remained unchallenged. Intelligence estimates are seldom free of political bias; invariably, it is guided by pre-decided policy objectives. Recently, President Bush has vividly spelt out these objectives in an address at the Naval Academy at Annapolis viz., strategic deterrence, forward deployment, rapid response, and retention of capability to reconstitute forces to meet the new threats.

Dick Cheney chose to describe the NEW YORK TIMES story as an "unauthorised leak". One can smell a rat in the choice of words. A "leak" is an intentional exposure, not the same as a "scope". Even if one were to accept Dick Cheney's contention; it still does not explain the specious defence of the Pentagon's earlier documents by President Bush.

This, then, is the rational explanation to the Pentagon's apparent volte-face. An indicator which reinforces this argument, is the substantial hike in the outlay for the SDI [Strategy Defense Initiative]. A Congressional report has indicated that the SDI would cost $12 billion more than the earlier estimate of $25 billion. Both the "leaked" and "watered down" versions are meant for "foreign" eyes only.

There is a lesson for India's policy makers; countries do not abandon their defence planning with every change in political weather. A threat has two dimensions; viz, adversary's capabilities, whereas capabilities take a long time to develop, the intentions can be changed instantaneously. [sentence as published] The two are interdependent and the presence of either becomes a catalyst for the other. It would be naive to think that the Pentagon has taken us off-the-hook. If it is any cheer, the others, namely, Russia, Japan, and Germany are in the same boat. And that is not a bad company to keep.

BJP's Advani Visits Tin Bigha Corridor

BK2506090292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 25 Jun 92

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. L.K. Advani, today visited Tin Bigha corridor [to be leased to Bangladesh] and its adjoining areas. According to official sources, about 12 BJP functionaries who accompanied Mr. Advani were arrested. The arrested include the party's state president, Mr. Tapan Sikdar.

Left Parties Differ on Presidential Candidates

BK2406163492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] The Congress-S has decided to support the candidature of Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma for the presidentship. Announcing the decision in New Delhi today, the party general secretary, Mr. K.P. Unnikrishnan regretted that the Congress-S cannot go along with the decision of the other constituents of the National Front in this matter. In a statement Mr. Unnikrishnan criticized both the ruling and opposition parties for not evolving a consensus on the presidential candidate and said the issue should not have been treated on partisan considerations.

Differences within the left parties on the issue of supporting the presidential candidate surfaced today with the RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party] deciding to abstain from voting. The party leader, Mr. Piyush Tidke, said in New Delhi today that his party will not be able to vote the Congress-I candidate as it is opposed to the economic and industrial policies of the government.

The CPI [Communist Party of India] is to decide about its stand on Friday.

The Forward Bloc national secretary, Mr. D.D. Shastri, says his party will take a decision on the issue at its national council meeting on the 4th of next month.

As already reported, the CPI-M [Communist Party of India- Marxist] has announced its decision to support Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma.

CPI-M To Back Congress-I Presidential Nominee

BK2306162692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] has decided to support the Congress-I nominee Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma for the presidentship. The CPI

[Communist Party of India] says it will decide its strategy in its Central Committee meeting tomorrow. The prolonged consultations between the National Front and the Left parties have not produced any common approach for the presidential election. In a joint statement in New Delhi today, the National Front and Left Front Combined criticized the prime minister for what they called his failure in arriving at a consensus in nominating a candidate for the presidentship. The Janata Dal leader, Professor Madhu Dandavate, who read out the joint statement, said the National Front and the Left parties will continue their fight against the economic policies of the Narasimha Rao government.

The CPI-M in a separate statement said it will support Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma for the office of the president. Criticizing the Congress-I for not nominating candidates for the posts of president and vice president together, the CPI-M said that it will keep its options open for the election of vice president. The statement says the party will favor a candidate from scheduled castes with the necessary stature for vice presidentship.

The CPI leader, Mr. Inderjit Gupta, told our correspondent in New Delhi that his party will be able to decide its strategy tomorrow.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has accused the Congress-I of using the strategy of consensus to bag both the offices of president and vice president. The party leader, Mr. L.K. Advani, told newspersons in New Delhi that the ruling party has devised a clever strategy in this regard and asserted that the presidential election will not go uncontested.

Four 'Militants' Among Dead in Punjab Incidents

BK2406150592 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] In Punjab, nine persons, including four militants and one home guard, were killed in separate incidents since last evening. According to an official spokesman, two militants were killed in an encounter with a police party in Amritsar District and one militant each were killed in Ludhiana and Amritsar Districts.

Four Killed in Kashmir; 11 'Subversives' Arrested

BK2406150792 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] In Kashmir valley, four persons were killed and eight others injured in the militancy-related incidents, while the security forces arrested 11 subversives, including a self-styled area commander of a militant outfit in the last 24 hours. During search operations, security forces recovered 25 kg of explosives, six AK-47 rifles, four pistols, four hand grenades, one rocket launcher, four rockets, one rocket projectile gun [as heard], and a large quantity of ammunition.

BJP Blames Pakistan for Attack on Hindu-Sikhs

BK2306163292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has described the attack on Hindu-Sikh families in Kabul as an attempt by Pakistan to weaken the Afghan economy. In a statement in New Delhi, the party vice president, Mr. K.R. Malkani, said the Indian Government should do everything possible to ensure that Afghanistan remains an independent nation in the interests of peace and stability in the region.

Iran

President Urges Judiciary To Maintain Vigilance

LD2206105192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] At a gathering of the country's judiciary officials today, the president stated that our country possesses the most stable and healthy system of government in the region. For this reason, the jealousy and anxiety of international and regional power centers toward us have been aroused.

Addressing the third meeting of judiciary officials from throughout the country marking the beginning of judiciary week, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke about the political and social situation in the region and in the world and about developments occurring in various countries. He said: The system existing in the Islamic Republic of Iran is the most important sociopolitical development of the century. It has drawn the attention of observers and analysts. Now, the world has turned its eyes to the actions of a society that has been established on the basis of Islam and has shown a new path to the people of the world.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: We must go through this historical test with our heads held high, and we must give positive, effective, and clear answers to humanity's questions. The president said that we cannot go back on the path we have chosen and—stressing the importance of maintaining vigilance and unity between officials and the people to safeguard the achievements of the Islamic revolution—he said: In this meeting of the country's judiciary officials, who are all prominent and knowledgable people, the country's and region's social and political issues must be given attention.

He described as a valuable assest for an Islamic society the existing coordination between the government, the Majles and the Judiciary, and, most important of all, the wisdom and profound understanding of the leader of the Islamic revolution [Khamene'i] and his full command over the affairs of the country, as well as the presence on the scene of the people and the clergy. He said: The path we chose is correct, successful, and achievable and, by relying on our own resources, we must aim for a day

when, in addition to meeting the needs of our revolutionary and grateful people, we will also answer the needs of deprived and weak human beings throughout the world. This is a difficult but possible aim.

The president also referred to production trends and to government investment in the infrastructure in various sectors of the economy. Assessing the longterm prospects of all the relevant projects as positive, he noted: With full knowledge, our people placed their confidence in the path that the government is pursuing, and they are optimistic.

In his remarks, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani commemorated the memory of the honorable martyrs of 7 Tir [28 June 1981, bomb explosion at the headquarters of the Islamic Republic Party] and described the commemoration of judiciary week as a gesture of respect toward the eminent position of such personalities as the innocent martyr Ayatollah Dr. Beheshti. He said: By giving their blood, they made the greatest investment for the victory and consolidation of the revolution and the rule of an Islamic system.

The head of the Judiciary, the president of the supreme court, the state prosecutor general, and other judiciary officials attended the gathering of the country's judiciary officials.

Article Views President's 'White Revolution'

NC2206111092 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 10 Jun 92 pp 1, 11

[Second of an unspecified number of articles by Jihad al-Zayn from Tehran: "The Iranian Economy Between Two Prayers"]

[Excerpts] A popular joke in Tehran, attributed to the Armenians, says that the Armenians are enthusiastic about exporting the Iranian revolution—exporting it completely, so that none of it remains in Iran.

The sarcastic atmosphere developing around the rift between ideology and the economy is not just verbal. It is possible to find a satirical magazine in Tehran called GOL AQA that carries a cartoon of the new Majles on its cover with an old car and two people on motorcycles going in, while a luxury Mercedes is coming out—a clear reference to the privileges of authority. This is a time when direct attacks have begun on the symbols of the clergy, as during the Mashhad riots.

There is a difference between the regime's religious-political views and its economic policy. It is as if the two are taking place on different floors of the Hashemi-Rafsanjani building and constitute the basic characteristics of his regime. The remains of the jurisprudential agenda of the ruling environment in Iran, whose last manifestation was in the elections for the Fourth Majles, live in this building. The candidates in these elections were divided almost exclusively into two major currents, or institutions: The "Jami'at-e Ruhaniyat-e Mobarez," or militant clerics grouping, which supports Hashemi-Rafsanjani's policy, and the "Majma'-e Ruhaniyun-e Mobarez," which is led by so-called hardliners.

If there is any economic meaning to Hashemi-Rafsanjani's victory in the Majles elections, it is that these "technocrat" deputies, mostly new, will not be an obstacle to the Iranian president's economic open-door policy. The previous Majles, in which his adversaries, the "Ruhaniyune-e Mobarez," had considerable power, made it difficult for Hashemi-Rafsanjani to launch this policy. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's adversaries tend to support a strong, central, state role in economic life, while Hashemi-Rafsanjani obviously wants the opposite. [passage omitted]

In the opinion of many observers in Tehran, in his economic rather than his political open-door policy, Hashemi-Rafsanjani is facing the same situation as the shah during his modernization effort in the 1970's, the so-called "white revolution." The religious regime has two baskets of numerous and complex problems. The first contains the problems generated by the regime's internal environment in the post-1979 era. The second basket contains the problems generated by Iranian society as a result of the same bilateral conflicts faced by other societies undergoing a change from ancient to modern, poverty to affluence, state to society, and so forth.

Diplomats in Tehran ask whether Hashemi-Rafsanjani is Gorbachev or Yeltsin, or whether he is Anwar al-Sadat regarding how far his white revolution, still in the economic rather than the political arena, can go.

It is known that during his first five years in office, al-Sadat followed an economic open-door policy. Only in the second half of the 1970's did he turn against 'Abd-al-Nasir's ideological and political policies. The prevailing opinion is that Hashemi-Rafsanjani will not reach the point al-Sadat did. He would be unable to do that in any event, although the economic comparison with al-Sadat's first years does apply to him.

According to informed circles, the most he can do is to prepare for gradual economic normalization with the United States, provided that suitable international conditions emerge, especially in the United States itself. Government circles in Iran do not hide their conviction that Washington is deliberately exaggerating the "Iranian danger" in the region, particularly in Central Asia. These circles say that Iran's resources are meager compared to what is required to wield influence in the newly independent Islamic republics. "We have nothing to offer except gas and oil," an Iranian source said.

During a ceremony to receive the new Iranian ambassador's credentials last week in Ashkhabad, the Turkmen president called on Iran to help rehabilitate his country's industry and praised the project to link Turkmen and Iranian rail lines. He did not mention the project Iran is really after: The construction of a Turkmen gas pipeline through Iran to the Gulf coast. The Turkmen president's

omission was the result of his government's failure to decide on one of two options. The first project is the Iranian project, which costs half a billion dollars according to Iranian sources. The main argument for it is that a southern extension of the pipeline will take Turkmen gas to the world's primary oil exporting coast. The second project is the Turkish project, which calls for extending the Turkmen gas pipeline north through Iran, Turkey, and Georgia to the Black Sea. The main argument for this project is that it costs less, due to the shorter distance, and leads to non-oil producing areas that need it—the Black Sea region and on to Western Europe.

In view of the growing division between his declared ideological-political view and his realistic economic policy, Hashemi-Rafsanjani is continuing his complex game. When the texts clash with the open-door policy, he creates parallel institutions capable of making decisions outside the regime's traditional structure. One of the most important of these parallel institutions is "the Higher Investment Council."

The prominent factor is that the conflict has quickly begun to overstep the regime's religious framework and is now affecting other parts of Iranian society. The belief among many informed people is that the internal situation, from the economic standpoint, has become subject to all sorts of changes and that outside conditions can influence the speed of these changes.

Cabinet Discusses Earthquake Damage Reconstruction

LD2206105892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] The cabinet met today. During the meeting, Interior Minister Nuri-Hoseynabadi submitted a report about the progress of reconstruction activities in the earthquake-striken regions of Gilan and Zanjan provinces. In this report, the progress of reconstruction, especially of homes—taking note of general conditions of the country—were described as good. It was hoped that by securing the necessary building materials and in the event of a possible rise in the ceiling of credit from the banks, the final stages of reconstructing damaged regions will be reached during the current year [ending 20 March 1993].

In his report, the interior minister noted the measures taken in connection with eliminating exceptional shortcomings. Mr. Nuri-Hoseynabadi concluded by stating that the people's impressive efforts and the good cooperation from officials in these regions transformed this destroyed region into one that has been built-up and is now habitable.

During this session, Mr. Ghaffurifard, deputy president and supervisor of the Physical Education Organization, presented his organization's programs and cited the investment made in expanding physical education and sports.

Deputies Approved;, Jurists Elected to Majles

LD2206090392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Excerpt] The Majles held an open session, chaired by Speaker Nateq-Nuri. During the session, the credentials of the deputy from Tangavar, Sahneh, and Harsin, Hasan Soleymani, as well as the credentials of the deputies from Arak, Mohammad Reza Moqaddam-e Firuz and Seyyed Hoseyn Shahidi, were approved.

According to a report by our correspondent, during today's open session a letter addressed to the Majles from Judiciary head Mohammad Yazdi was read. In his letter, the Judiciary head—implementing Article 91 of the Constitution regarding the election of three jurists to the new session of the Guardians Council—introduced six jurists to the Majles. [passage omitted]

Deputy Says Fourth Majles To Follow Imam's Line

NC2306111292 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 14 Jun 92 pp 1, 15

[Report by A. 'Ayyari]

[Text] Tehran—A Majles deputy from Tehran constituency said that contrary to foreign media propaganda, the fourth Majles will adhere strictly to the Imam's line.

The Imam's line in Iran is popularly recognized as the line followed by those who believe basically in the Islamic principles and guidance set down by the Islamic Revolution leader Imam Khomeyni.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohsen Mojtahed-Shabestari, in an interview with the TEHRAN TIMES, said, "No, it is wrong to say that compared to the third Majles, the present one belongs to one particular group or faction."

He said, "About the fourth Majles, I should say that the majority of those who believe in the Imam's line, follow the leadership (Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i) and support President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

"If you remember, it was our manifesto for the elections and on this basis the people have given votes to us," the white-turbaned 'Alim [scholar] said.

"Now we have closer contact with the Rafsanjani administration," he said adding, "it never means that we, God forbid, will ignore the interests of the people."

Shabestari said, "I tell you now, and you will see and experience it, that whenever the government will make a mistake, we will be the first to criticize, and no leniency will be given in this connection."

"And, moreover," he said, "I do not see much difference between the two (factions), it is in the way of working or style," Shabestari said and pointed out that everyone believes in the basic principles of the Islamic Revolution and guidance of the Imam.

"Yes, we have a complete picture in our mind of the sufferings of the people, and the ailing economy of the country, and we are also anxious that a just distribution of the nation's wealth should be made, so that the deprived of this country may reap the fruit of the Islamic Revolution," he added.

He said that we have three basic problems to which all attention is being paid by the Majles, the government, and other revolutionary organizations.

He said that inflation should be cut within the shortest possible time, and the rate of hard currency should be fixed, keeping the national interests in mind.

"Of course, there are other problems too which need attention of the government, such as a just distribution network for consumer goods, fixing of just prices of these goods, blocking the immigration of rural population to the urban areas," Shabestari, who won the Tehran seat in the Majles in the second round of the elections in May, said. He stood fifth in the list of 28 who were elected in that round while two were elected in April's first round.

On economic policy, Shabestari quoted founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran Imam Khomeyni who, he said, believed that trade should not be put at the disposal of the government.

He quoted the Imam as saying that the government should be inspector or observer and not trader.

Shabestari said that we should reduce our dependency on oil income as soon as possible. He said there is a long list of commodities which can find an easy market abroad, such as various types of stones, pistachios, carpets, handicrafts, and others.

"The increase of the non-oil goods is necessary for the stabilization of the country's economy," Shabestari said.

Commenting on those who could not find seats in the Majles, he said, "Well, the question is the service which can be done anywhere and it is not necessary that one should go to the Majles only to serve the masses."

He said that the president and head of the judiciary had already said that responsibilities will be assigned to these people.

"In fact," he said, "some are already busy in their new jobs."

Shabestari said that according to the revised Article 133 of the Constitution, there is no need that the president should get the cabinet approved by the new Majles.

When asked, he said, "I have heard rumors too and personally believe that there will be no major changes in the cabinet."

At present we should invest all our attention and force on improving the economy, Shabestari said.

Shabestari was in the TEHRAN TIMES office and also met with Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad-Baqer Ansari, and inspected various facilities of the daily.

Regime Said Watching Marivan Business Locations

NC2306093392 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] According to a report by the Voice of Iranian Kordestan correspondent from Party Committee Number One, the antihuman clerical regime's officials have, for some time, been watching Marivan people's business locations near the border strip, recently embarking on a new plot that has hit the income of the region's traders.

Regime officials in Marivan let 20 lackeys, their hypocritical spies, conduct business in this area and commute between Iraqi and Iranian Kordestan, while the local traders were not permitted to trade here. Exchanging goods and commuting to Iraqi Kordestan was once free, but now the regime is using every means to hamper the people's commercial activities, except those of its own agents.

The mercenary individuals permitted to continue trading only act as spies and informers to benefit the regime. On 8 June 3,000 Marivan and neighboring villages' traders protested against the clerical regime outside the governorate and the building of the regime's intelligence apparatus, expressing their discontent with regime policies.

Finding the officials indifferent, they became infuriated and attacked the warehouse where goods belonging to the 20 regime-appointed agents were stored and destroyed them. Fearing a major outbreak of protests and public indignation, the regime's repressive forces in Marivan came onto the streets and stationed themselves in a state of alert in various (?parts) of the city.

They attacked people and arrested 40, who were thrown into prison. Reports say several of those arrested were transferred to Sanandaj Prison. Nothing is clear about their fate. The situation in Marivan remained tense in the few days since the events occurred. The regime's forces patrol the city in a state of alert and are interrogating pedestrians.

The Marivan Party Committee appreciates the city traders' positions and urges residents to unify their ranks to save the lives of those who were arrested and to demand their release by staging extensive and group demonstrations.

The names, surnames, occupations, and addresses of the arrested should be written down and sent to the Marivan Party Committee as soon as possible so that they may be submitted to the international humanitarian organizations, letting international public opinion know how the regime is repressing the people of Kordestan.

Regime Orders Some Kord Villages Evacuated

NC2206125292 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] According to a report from Marivan, the clerical regime's officials there asked the residents of the villages of (Garbrasher), (Do Floreh), (Veshkanan), and Qamishleh to evacuate their villages and go elsewhere. The clerical regime told the residents that each family would be given about 200,000 tumans in compensation.

For quite some time the clerical regime has been resorting to threats, intimidation, and repression to devastate the rural areas of Kordestan and has forcibly evacuated hundreds of villages and razed them to the ground.

Without any doubt, the residents of these villages will never be deceived by the so-called moderate policies of the regime and will never abandon their ancestral homes. They will resist the regime's attempts to displace them and will foil the regime's officials in their plot to slowly destroy Kordestan's villages.

It is the obligation of the residents of the villages and the city of Marivan to rise up together in support of these villages and jointly resist the regime's policies.

New Qom Law Enforcement Commander Appointed

LD2206164892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] Col. Asheqi was appointed and introduced the new Qom Law Enforcement Forces commander. According to the Central News Unit, during the introductory ceremonies, held yesterday in the Qom Law Enforcement headquarters, Col. Farshad, the outgoing Qom Law Enforcement Forces commander, was thanked for his services.

Esfahan Refinery Output Higher Than Expected

LD2306104692 Tehran IRNA in English 1008 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Isfahan, June 23, IRNA—Oil products at Esfahan refinery are presently 82 percent higher than the anticipated capacity, head of the refinery Ebrahimi said here Tuesday.

The refinery, with a daily input of 364,000 barrels of crude oil, has an output of nine million liters of gasoline, 24 million liters of medium-distilled kerosene and gas oil, three million liters of plane fuel, and 1,400,000 kgs of liquid gas per day.

Meanwhile, production of 500,000 liters of engine oil at the refinery has made the country self-sufficient.

He stressed that further investments in the engine oil complex of the refinery would increase production of the unit by 30 to 40 percent.

Monthly Steel Production Triples in Three Years

LD2306082792 Tehran IRNA in English 0634 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 23, IRNA—Monthly steel production in the country stands at 300,000 tons, three times higher than the output three years ago, said Minister of Mines and Metals Mohammad Hoseyn Mahlujchi here Monday.

Speaking in a gathering of experts and employees of 'Sarcheshmeh' copper complex, Mahlujchi said despite the bottlenecks of the past few years, remarkable economic development programs have been launched in general, in the field of mines in particular.

The minister expressed hope that the copper production of the complex will reach 200,000 tons in the coming years.

Mahlujchi and the accompanying delegation inspected the work on "Midok" cooper mine.

Radio, TV Transmitters Inaugurated in Rasht, Yazd

LD2206170592 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1200 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] A 100-kw radio transmitter, named Azadegad [Persian: the free people], was commissioned in Rasht today. According to a Central News Unit report, there are eight radio transmitters and three television transmitters at this center, which provides coverage for the radio networks and the first and second television channels in all regions of the province.

The FM transmitting unit of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic in Yazd completed work on building a satellite ground station in Saghand, near Ardekan. The station began operating today. Thanks to the operation of this station, the inhabitants of the mining complex in Chadormalu and Saghand can now receive programs of the first and the second television channels.

Petrochemical Complex To Begin Operations in Feb

LD2206102692 Tehran IRNA in English 0916 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] Arak, Central Prov., June 22, IRNA—The first phase of the Arak petrochemical complex, currently under construction, will be put into operation by February next year.

Speaking to reporters Sunday afternoon, the head of the complex, E. Kabir, noted that with the operation of the first phase, over 60,000 tons of light and heavy polyethylene would be produced annually.

The complex will cover 35 to 40 percent of the country's need for polyethylenes and other polymeric substances, he added.

It will yield a daily net profit of dlrs. one million, Kabir said adding that the fund allocated to the first phase amounted to rls. 275,500 million and dlrs. 1,301 million.

He noted that construction of the second phase will be started in mid-spring next year.

Commentary Criticizes U.S.-Qatar Defense Pact

LD2406162192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1006 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Political commentary: "The U.S.-Qatari Military Pact"]

[Text] Qatar and the United States signed a defense pact yesterday. Qatar claims that the pact will help maintain peace and stability in the region. The signatories to the pact were the Qatari deputy foreign minister and the U.S. ambassador to Qatar. The Qatari Cabinet and Consultative Council already approved the pact.

The details of the pact were divulged, but since the Kuwaiti and Bahraini Governments already signed similar pacts with the United States, one can conclude that the contents of this pact are in the same vein as before, the principles of which have been accepted by Persian Gulf Cooperation Council member countries.

Storing arms and ammunition, using port facilities, staging joint exercises, and personnel training are points that were included in previous pacts. In addition, equipping and renovating the armies of Arab countries in the region have been among the main aims of some of those countries since the oil war. For that reason some Persian Gulf littoral states signed military purchase agreements with the United States and some European countries.

Some analysts in the region say that since Operation Desert Shield and the ousting of Iraq from occupied Kuwait, many Western governments have been upset by the security vacuum but lack a logical strategy to lay the foundations of all-embracing security with other regional countries. For that reason they placed greater emphasis on signing defense and military pacts with powers outside the region.

Obviously, as far as the United States and its European allies in the war against Iraq were concerned, continued military presence was one of the main aims of their large-scale troop dispatch to the region. On that basis the Islamic Republic of Iran condemns any pact aimed at legitimizing foreign military presence in the Persian Gulf region and specifically stresses the importance of improving all-round relations between regional countries based on respect for national sovereignty.

Some political analysts believe that the tendency toward the military concept of security in the region—which will lead to purchasing and massing military equipment in addition to giving rise to the possibility of an arms race among regional countries—will seriously undermine the idea of stability and security. Considering the border disputes between some regional Arab states, this will increase the threat of military conflict, be it on a limited scale.

For that reason, the Islamic Republic of Iran—which is capable of effective intervention in establishing security and regional cooperation, owing to its economic power, size, population, and scientific and industrial progress—has always given a positive response to plans and proposals for regional cooperation.

Newspaper Reporter Arrested on Espionage Charges

NC2406201792 Paris AFP in English 1959 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 24 (AFP) - An Iranian reporter for the newspaper SALAM, which is close to hardliners, was arrested in the city of Qom on espionage charges and regular contacts with a European embassy, the daily KEYHAN reported Wednesday.

KEYHAN gave no details on when Salman Heidari, who also writes for another radical newspaper ABRAR, was seized, but said he was accused of "providing intelligence and information to a European embassy" which it did not name.

The reporter's file was sent to a revolutionary court, KEYHAN said, adding that Heidari had visited Turkey in 1989 to apply for a visa for the United States.

The paper said officials at SALAM had refused to provide any information on Heidari's arrest.

Velayati Assesses 'Positive' ICO Session

NC2206070392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] Our Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati described the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] extraordinary session as extremely positive. Arriving in Tehran this morning, he spoke to our correspondent, saying:

[Begin Velayati recording] The extraordinary session was convened to immediately assess the plight of the Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina, who are under Serbian cruelty and tyranny. The resolution adopted by conference mostly relates to the need for Islamic countries to coordinate and implement practical measures to benefit the Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina and to deter Serbs from continuing their attacks and tyranny against the Muslims.

I consider this session successful, demonstrating a sense of solidarity among the Muslim countries, shown in the concluding resolution. We hope to see practical signs of this solidarity, the unanimity and decision of the Islamic countries as soon as possible, and that it helps deter the

Serbs from their activities against Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina. We also hope assistance to Bosnia-Hercegovina's Muslims will continue and increase. [end recording]

About the disarmament session in Geneva, Velayati said: Discussions centered on chemical disarmament, the Islamic Republic of Iran actively participating in the session as one of the victims of the use of chemical weapons.

He added: Nuclear disarmament was discussed, the Islamic Republic of Iran announcing that it should be carried out without discrimination.

About the session of the European Countries' Foundation in Switzerland, Dr. Velayati said: Iran's position on Nagorno-Karabakh was propounded; we believe that the continuing war there can bring nothing but loss to the forces and assets of the conflicting sides. They should start negotiating their differences and decide what to do for their interests.

The foreign minister added: It will take time for the warring sides to reach this conclusion, because certain elements are instigating them.

During his visit, Dr. Velayati led a political delegation to three sessions—the ICO in Istanbul, the disarmament session in Geneva, and the European Countries' Foundation in Switzerland.

IAEO Refutes Israel's Nuclear Potential Charges

LD2106215392 Tehran IRNA in English 1621 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 21, IRNA—Iran's Atomic Energy Organization (IAEO) in a statement here today refuted Israel's claim that Iran enjoys nuclear potential.

On the contrary, added the statement, the Zionist State of Israel which 20 years back achieved the capability for producing nuclear arms is a "threat" to the region for its having a huge arsenal of ballistic missiles.

It severely condemned the Israeli air force chief's recent threat to attack any country which introduced nuclear weapons into the Middle East. The Israeli Commander Herzl Bodinger had also named Iran as a country to have nuclear capability "within a decade if not stopped."

The IAEO said the goal of the U.S. and Israel behind their latest propaganda tirade was to exert political pressure on the Islamic Republic.

"They are trying to throw obstacles on the way of Iranian officials and make obstructions in their efforts to implement infrastructural projects, including setting up of atomic power plants to secure domestic-required energy."

The organization said that Iran has repeatedly indicated in its statements and press interviews that it never intends to possess nuclear weapons. As the documents and evidences in the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) testify, it added, Iran has been one of the backers and proponents of resolutions calling for global nuclear disarmament, especially in the Middle East.

Evidently, the IAEO statement said, it is for 20 years that the usurper regime of Israel has the capability to produce nuclear arms and enjoys great ballistic missile arsenals that is a threat to the region. But Iran is basically for the peaceful utilization of the nuclear capability and never intends to produce them, it added.

"Iran believes that all these weapons should be annihilated and to have a region free of nuclear arms. Because the experience of the disintegration of the East bloc showed that the former Soviet Union with more than 30,000 nuclear warheads could not gain any concession," it added.

The statement said that Iran is a signatory to the non-proliferation agreement and sticks to the international regulations on inspection of nuclear installations. But it regretted that the Israeli Government, despite its membership in IAEA, has not yet joined any of the IAEA resolutions and international agreements. Israel is even backed by all-out Western support, in spite of its non-peaceful nuclear programs.

It noted that in the Middle East, Israel was now the sole producer of lethal nuclear weapons and that this was in contradiction with the important resolutions issued by the IAEA on the policy of building a nuclear free zone.

The statement urged Israel that instead of creating international atmosphere and poking its nose into the affairs that based on the international protocols and agreements were not related to it, to execute the resolutions of the United Nations.

It should also respond why it does not accept the non-proliferation treaty and does not permit the IAEA inspection team to inspect its nuclear installations, added the statement.

It concluded that Israel was the sole Middle East nuclear power that was against the IAEA inspection and more importantly neither the Western governments nor the U.S. had raised any objections against that regime.

Iraq Executes 75 for Antigovernment Uprising

LD2206082992 Tehran IRNA in English 0606 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] Damascus, June 22, IRNA—Some 75 people involved in last year's anti-government uprising of the Iraqi people were executed last week by the Baghdad regime, reported the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI), here Sunday.

According to the report, an army officer and five soldiers from Iraq's first mechanized division were among those executed. The death sentences were issued by Colonel Tariq Majid, a commander of the division.

Those executed were charged with assisting popular forces in southern Iraq in anti-government riots.

Envoy Flies To Baghdad To Discuss POW's

LD2306164392 Tehran IRNA in English 1445 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 23, IRNA—The Foreign Ministry Advisor, 'Ali Khorram left Tehran for Baghdad for a two-day visit today to probe into the case of the remaining Iranian and Iraqi prisoners of war.

The two countries are still holding some POWs, with Iraq refusing to acknowledge the number of Iranian POWs in its camps.

Several corpses of Iranian victims of the eight-year long Iraqi imposed war were recently delivered to Iranian officials by Baghdad following an agreement between the two sides after a long halt in the POW swap.

Asia-Pacific Socioeconomic Commission Convenes

Regional Cooperation To Be Discussed

LD2106220792 Tehran IRNA in English 1738 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 21, IRNA—The industries and technology ministers of member states of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) will meet in Tehran June 23-29, Industries Minister Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh announced here Sunday.

On the agenda of the ESCAP meet would be prospects for regional cooperation in the field of industrial training and promotion of technical skills, ways of developing the industrial structure of Asia and the Pacific and developing the industries of underdeveloped states, he said.

The minister cited healthy industrial-technological development from the environmental point of view and encouragement of investment and financing of industrial projects in developing countries as other topics to be discussed in Tehran.

On the sidelines of the Tehran meeting, a photo exhibition entitled "Industry and Technology" would be held and nine specialized books published.

Ne'matzadeh Makes Speech

LD2306122792 Tehran IRNA in English 1028 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 23, IRNA—The six-day ministerial meeting of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) opened here Tuesday with a speech of Industries Minister Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh.

Addressing the preliminary meeting of the ministers of industry and technology and other senior officials from 56 Asian-Pacific countries, Ne'matzadeh said that the world's economic, political and social climate, in view of its evolution and fundamental restructuring, is passing a very critical juncture.

He noted that in light of the collapse of Communism, a new situation is emerging and that the developing countries have to play a major and effective role in shaping of the new order on account of their extensive human and economic resources.

"Based on the evaluation conducted by ESCAP," the minister added, "the economic and industrial restructuring of the member states will proceed, from an industrial structure dependent on the government and public resources, centralized planning, public supervision and control, development based on domestic resources and markets, as well as closed government-sponsored economic, to a market-oriented industrial development, assignment of production affairs to the private sector, more emphasis on foreign investment, transfer and absorption of updated technologies, cooperation and competition at the international level and development of export industries." [as received]

As for the economic structure of Iran, he said that the prevailing circumstances after the 1979 Islamic Revolution called for the assumption of a direct and immediate role by the Iranian Government in order to safeguard the production system, employment, optional utilization of all domestic potentials and resources and preservation of the domestic production trend.

The minister noted that the Iranian Constitution emphasizes the all-out participation of the Iranian people in all domestic production activities and forbids the government's centralization in capital investments.

"The economic liberalization and adjustment policy, as a prerequisite for application of marketing mechanisms in the economic activities, has been put into effect, and in addition to emphasizing on the role of the private sector in the economic development of the country, the allocation of companies administered by and affiliated to the public bodies has been put into execution."

"The utilization of appropriate monetary and financial policies, introduction of a proper legal condition favorable to the encouragement of domestic investment as well as attraction of foreign capitals are other outstanding features of the plans under implementation by the Islamic Republic of Iran."

He further noted that Iran prepares to assume a more active role, on account of her ancient culture and history, at the regional and sub-regional levels and take benefit of the experiences acquired by all the ESCAP countries and in turn to make her experiences available to other developing countries.

Turning to the present world economic situation, Ne'matzadeh told the audience that "the ever increasing income gap between the developed and least developed

countries on the one hand, political and social instability as well as the diminution in the health level on the other, have resulted in the per capita income of over 80 percent of inhabitants on earth to be below U.S. dlrs. 750 and the rest 20 percent over U.S. dlrs. 15,000, which figures are eloquent tokens of the rapid development of poverty worldwide."

"This gruesome trend can naturally prevent the stable growth at the region. In addition, the establishment of preferential and protectionist tariff systems, ever increasing commercial constraints imposed upon the export of industrial and semi-industrial goods of developing and least developed countries by the developed ones, creation of common markets, limitation and confinement of business relations as well as the creation of new, imposing commercial blocs among the industrially developed countries, have assumed a new, threatening form, and unless a remedy for the removal of these obstacles is found at the regional and international levels, the picture will be quite disquieting."

Ne'matzadeh suggested, "in order to establish economic and commercial balance between the developed, developing and the least developed countries in the region covered by ESCAP and to protect them against the economic bloc formations, effective steps could be taken with a view of removing the present imbalances through the creation of regional and sub-regional common markets, conducting of joint studies, surveys and marketing, promotion of industrial, technological and productive cooperations in such a manner to ease the implementation of common investments, utilization of common educational facilities, expansion of manpower training centers required for the execution of above activities, as well as organizing joint exhibitions in trade, port installations and customs affairs."

He also warned the developed countries that they will no more be witnessing a stable growth and development under current policies of decreasing the raw material prices. He further cautioned against the negative implications of the expanding gap between the north and the south saying that it will no more be confined to the south and will involve the north as well.

Ne'matzadeh also touched on the environmental pollution and the growing concern that the developed countries are taking advantage of the environment issue to the detriment of the developing and the least developed countries, trying to impose the cost of controlling the environmental pollution produced by the industrialized countries on the developing countries.

In conclusion the minister said that the ESCAP strategy while creating new industrial and technological potentials at the regional levels, should pave the way for the establishment of close communications between governments and international bodies. The strategy should, in addition to improving the industrial output and productivity, help create dynamic management at regional level and promote broader participation of the private sector in productive activities, Ne'matzadeh said.

Industrial Agreement Signed With China

LD2206100692 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] Mr. Xian, China's nonmetallic industries deputy minister, and Mr. Bushehri—the mines and metals deputy minister responsible for administrative, financial, and parliamentary affairs—signed an agreement today. The agreement concerns the progress of joint projects, particularly the Yazd zinc project; the iron alloys project; constructing a copper smelting factory with a capacity of 50,000 tonnes; manpower training; a new project for producing concentrated metals, graphic electrodes, and fire-resistant materials; cooperation in geology; and constructing a cement manufacturing plant on Qeshm Island with a daily capacity of 700 tons a day.

Postwar Reconstruction Discussed With UN Envoy

LD2306111192 Tehran IRNA in English 0954 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 23, IRNA—Iran's post-war reconstruction programs and implementation of the UN Resolution 598 on ending the Iraq-Iran war was discussed here Monday in a meeting between Iran's vice-president in charge of executive affairs Hamid Mirzadeh and chief advisor of the UN Secretary General Mohammad Ali Niazi.

Niazi arrived here Sunday heading a delegation to follow up the implementation of decisions adopted by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali in his last January visit to Tehran.

Mirzadeh, who is also in charge of the reconstruction programs of the war-stricken areas, said that during the 1980-88 Iraqi-imposed war, the Iranian economy sustained heavy damage and a large number of people in war zones evacuated their hometowns.

He praised international efforts for restoring rights of the Islamic Republic of Iran and hoped that appropriate reparations will be paid to Iran.

Welcoming the UN proposal for holding an international conference on Iran's post-war reconstruction, Mirzadeh expressed hope that the conference will be held in the near future.

On reconstruction works completed so far, Mirzadeh said they include rebuilding of 1,100 medical centers and many damaged factories and power plants in the war-stricken areas.

Niazi stressed that full implementation of the UN Resolution 598 is of vital importance for the security of the

Persian Gulf region and said his visit to Tehran was the sign of the secretary general's support for Iran's reconstruction efforts.

Describing as "massive" the damage inflicted on Iran in the course of 8 years of war, the UN special envoy said holding of international conferences will result in international participation and cooperation in reconstruction programs.

Niazi expressed hope that the UN will be able to assist Tehran in rebuilding the damaged areas through providing non-returnable or low-interest loans.

Mashhad, Tajikistan Sign Fiber Plant Accord

LD2206200492 Tehran IRNA in English 1835 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] Mashhad (Khorasan), June 22, IRNA—A synthetic fiber producing company based in this holy city has signed a protocol with Tajikistan's Ministry of Industry to build a fiber producing complex in Dushanbe with a capacity of 2,000 tons a year.

The managing director of the company told IRNA here today that 50 million gunny sacks made of synthetic fibers will be exported to Tajikistan.

He said that according to a separate protocol signed with the Turkmenistan Ministry of Industry, the company will export one million gunny sacks made of synthetic fibers to Ashkhabad soon.

Sarakhs Planned To Be 'Major Economic Pole'

LD2306105692 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Sarakhs, Khorasan Prov., June 23, IRNA—The provincial city of Sarakhs, bordering Turkmenia, will be turned into a major economic pole through investments of superintendent of the Holy Shrine of Imam Reza (AS), said head of the body Hojjat ol-Eslam Va'ez Tabasi here Monday.

Speaking in a gathering of teachers of the province, the Hojjat ol-Eslam said the necessary grounds should be provided for expansion of cooperation with the newly-independent republics of Central Asia.

He also called on the cultural officials to draw up the necessary plans to overcome the cultural backwardness of the deprived people of the region.

Article Views 'Great Dependence' on German Imports

NC2206125492 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 11 Jun 92 p 9

[Third of an unspecified number of articles by Jihad al-Zayn from Tehran: "The Iranian Economy Between Two Prayers"]

[Excerpts] On the mountainous road from Tehran to Chalus on the Caspian Sea and on the road back to Tehran across Karaj, there is a network of high altitude automobile tunnels, some of which are 5 km long. They are the "German" tunnels! Built in the rugged and frightening Alborz mountain range, these tunnels symbolize the long-standing special relationship between Iran and Germany. [passage omitted]

These tunnels were built by German and Iranian engineers during the rule of Reza Shah and his son Mohammad Reza.

Despite the issue of the German hostages in Lebanon, in Tehran you can see that the Iranian-German relationship has a wide horizon, reflected in the country's economy, and is not passing through a narrow tunnel. Germany is now the most important country to the Iranian economy, followed by Japan. [passage omitted]

In the new "economic" language, in which ideology and religion are gradually being discarded, Iranian officials are giving preference to Germany and Japan, two major industrial and financial powers with no oil resources of their own. Germany and Japan need Iran's oil, a situation Tehran can exploit. Iranian officials justify their position by citing the continuing U.S. boycott of Iran, which obliges Iran to consolidate its economic relations with other industrial powers, including Italy. (By the way, the Iranians are discussing an Italian "phenomenon" in which Italian businessmen submit low bids to implement certain projects and raise the prices once work begins! This was mentioned by the newly appointed Iranian ambassador in Rome) [passage omitted]

The volume of trade between Germany and Iran reached 8.2 billion marks in 1991, including 6.7 billion marks in German exports to Iran. German exports were up considerably compared with 1990, when they were only 2.7 billion marks. Exports in 1991 increased by almost one and a half times.

Trade with Germany reached 789.8 million marks in January 1992, an increase of 20.9 percent over January 1991. During the same period, Iranian exports to Germany were down 26.8 percent to 113.3 million marks. Iranian oil exports to Germany in January 1992 were down by 83.7 percent, while non-oil exports decreased by 28.3 percent. German exports to Iran reached 638.5 million marks in January 1992, an increase of 36.4 percent over January 1991.

These figures clearly illustrate Iran's great dependence on imports from Germany while German imports from Iran, even oil imports, are minimal. Germany still imports only 2 to 3 percent of its oil needs from Iran, compared to 20 percent before 1979. [passage omitted]

Envoy on Mediation Efforts for Azerbaijan, Armenia

NC2306134092 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 16 Jun 92 pp 1, 15

[Report from the TEHRAN TIMES City Desk]

[Text] Tehran—The Iranian ambassador to the Azerbaijan Republic yesterday announced that Iran is ready to restart mediation between Armenia and Azerbaijan on certain conditions.

Talking to the TEHRAN TIMES Asghar Nahavandian said "Iran's terms for the mediation are that the forces of the two sides should withdraw on the point where they were stationed at the time of the Tehran declarations and also both parties should accept Iranian mediation."

He was referring to the tripartite talks held here which were attended by President 'Ali Akhbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, then Azerbaijan Acting President Yakub Mamedov and Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan. The talks were held in the first week of May and warring parties, Azerbaijan and Armenia, accepting the mediation of Iran, also agreed to impose a ceasefire soon.

"Unfortunately political developments took place in Azerbaijan and war was continued which resulted in the fall of Shusha and Lachin, Azerbaijani towns, in the hands of Armenians, Nahavandian said.

He said that it was Iran's declared policy that it wanted to retain peace, calm and tranquility in the region so all know that during the past Iran did all that was in its power to stop bloodshed in its neighboring countries.

"How can we be indifferent while guns are booming at our doorstep?" Nahavandian said and pointed out that "After bitter experiences of eight years of the war, we have realized that war cannot solve any problem.

"This is our sincere effort to see that peace should reign in our neighboring countries as soon as possible," Nahavandian said.

He scoffed at rumors that Iran supplied weapons to Armenia and underscored the fact again that Iran in no way considers war an answer to the problems faced by the two countries.

Referring to the situation in Afghanistan, Burma and Palestine he said that the blood of the Muslims is being shed and we should do all we can to stop it.

Wearing a smile on his face Nahavandian said, "How is it possible that while Iran wants peace it should supply weapons to a warring country which will mean sprinkling petrol instead of water to extinguish a fire.

"It is not in the interest of Iran," Nahavandian who was former Iranian ambassador to Saudi Arabia said. He also served as advisor to the foreign minister on Persian Gulf affairs.

Nahavandian, 39, himself an Iranian Azerbaijani was born in Zanjan and also served as Iranian ambassador to North Korea. He is married with four children. His son-in-law is at the final stage of receiving a master's degree in political science.

Referring to the invitation of newly elected Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibey he said, "In principle, Iran wants to have closer relations with all its neighbors and face-to-face meetings between top officials is a must to explore fresh avenues for reciprocal cooperation."

He said, "Naturally, the Azeri president will be invited and he will hold talks with the Iranian officials."

On relief aid to Azerbaijan by Iran Nahavandian said, "There is no limit as far as Iran is concerned."

"We have already supplied gas worth $60 million to Azerbaijan and for the time being we have not once asked for payment," he said and pointed out that in due time payment will be made by our brotherly neighbor.

He said that a credit of $50 million was offered to Azerbaijanis so that they may come out from the present economic problems.

Nahavandian said that all preparations have been made to open the branch of the Bank Melli or the National Bank in Baku. He said that a considerable number of Azerbaijani expatriates arrived in Azerbaijan for participation in the reconstruction plans in that republic.

Nahavandian said that Iran has already started a $10 million plan for the telephone network in that republic which has great economic potential.

The ambassador was the guest at lunch hosted by the daily's Managing Director M. Soltanifar and was also attended by political commentator M. Firuzi.

Women's Delegation Leaves for Visit To Azerbaijan

LD2206144292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] The members of the Central Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Women's Association, headed by Zahra Mostafavi [daughter of Imam Khomeyni], left for the Republic of Azerbaijan around noon today. According to IRNA, our country's delegation is undertaking the visit on the invitation of the secretary general of the Republic of Azerbaijan's Women's Association.

Before leaving Tehran, Zahra Mostafavi said: During the visit, various issues,including the Islamic Republic of Iran's positions and links between the two countries' women's associations, will be discussed. She added: The visit is also aimed at countering the propaganda conspiracies of arrogance about the limitations imposed on the social activities of women in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mostafavi said that another aim of the trip was to get to know the women of the Republic of Azerbaijan and added: After the collapse of the communist system in the former Soviet Union and the establishment of independent republics, young people in those countries have a great need to fill the existing vacuum of thought, and ideology and communications can play a very positive role in this regard.

Agriculture Minister Attends World Food Council

LD2206202792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1830 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Dr. 'Isa Kalantari, the agriculture minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, arrived this morning in Nairobi to attend the World Food Council's 88th ministerial session. He expressed hope that the meeting will make constructive decisions for supplying food and wealth, especially in Africa.

The Kenyan agriculture minister expressed pleasure at the [word indistinct] of the Iranian agriculture session. [passage omitted]

IRNA's Nasiri Elected News Pool Chairman

LD2106225292 Tehran IRNA in English 1446 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 21, IRNA—The Managing Director of the Islamic Republic of Iran News Agency (IRNA), Hoseyn Nasiri today described the sixth conference of the Nonaligned News Agencies' Pool as having demonstrated a vital outlook towards all issues of the Third World, including that of communications.

Nasiri said the presence in Tehran of member states of the Nonaligned News Agencies was a prominent feature of the assembly and added that contribution of all participants at the conference to its end result as well as their logical outlooks towards major world issues was a principal character of the meeting.

He noted that the Tehran meeting, which wound up last night, served to "to instill new life" into the Pool's entity.

The conference, which was attended by 74 news agencies, issued a resolution touching on major world issues, including that of Lebanon, Bosnia-Hercegovina, the Golan Heights, the African issues as well as policies and practices for encountering Zionist expansionism.

The work program of the Tehran conference stressed on the Pool's commitment to professional standards and to the aspirations of the Palestinian Muslims, as well as their struggle against Zionist domination, and upheld the determination of the Palestinians for instituting an independent state.

The Pool conference also touched on other issues of the day, including the deterioration of the status of the environment, and called on member agencies to devote more effort to the propagation of the initiatives in various parts of the world for fighting pollution and protecting the environment.

IRNA's managing director noted that at the Pool conference Persian language was for the first time offered as a language for international assemblies, and that the resolutions of the conference had been printed and distributed to participants in Persian.

He noted that the resolutions of the conference, a climatic end to five days of talks and negotiations in Tehran, was a document with international implications.

Nassiri said the Pool conference in Tehran, which was a meeting of more than two thirds of the world people, demonstrated the fact that the Nonaligned Movement was capable of coping with many major issues of the present world.

The IRNA managing director was elected Pool chairman for the next three years.

According to Nasiri, special attention to the status of women and their role on the social and cultural development of the society ranked high on the agenda of the conference.

The conference paid particular attention to the social, cultural, economic, educational, and political role of women in the Third World, and deplored exploitation of women in the Western societies and the distorted picture of women as offered by many multinational news agencies and other medias.

Nasiri also stressed on the increasing need for benefiting from the satellite system for the exchange of information in the modern world.

Conference Topics Noted

LD2206103792 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] The director of the Islamic Republic News Agency [IRNA] spoke about the achievements of the Nonaligned News Agencies Pool's sixth general conference. Mr. Nasiri said the free flow of information and important international political developments—including events in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Palestine, Lebanon, and Africa, as well as the position adopted toward the Zionist regime—were discussed during the session.

Nasiri referred to the presence during the session of representatives from the newly independnet republics of the former Soviet Union and said: The representatives of some of the countries—including Tajikistan, Armenia, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan—spoke in Persian, meaning that the Persian language has the potential to be used in such conferences.

Commentary Views Israeli Labor Party Victory

LD2406123292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Based on the preliminary results of the Zionist regime's parliamentary elections, Yitzhaq Rabin, leader of the Labor Party will be the new prime minister of that regime. [passage omitted]

Judging from the historical background of the Labor Party and also the new positions adopted by that party and by the Likud faction, it is manifestly clear that the programs and objectives of these two factions are not fundamentally different from each other. Both parties defend building settlements in the occupied territories. Likud does not accept establishing a Palestinian state in the occupied territories, and the Labor Party rejects a return to the 1967 borders. Finally, both parties consider that the Golan Heights are part of Israeli territory and oppose withdrawing from these borders.

Minor differences between the Likud and the Labor Party in Israel are that as far as the settlements are concerned, the Labor Party believes that security settlements should continue to be built in the strategic areas of the West Bank and not in all of it. The Likud's programs, on the other hand, call for extending the settlements to all parts of the occupied territories, including the West Bank and Golan Heights. Regarding the prospects for America's peace talks, both the Likud and Labor Parties oppose the principle of land for peace. [passage omitted]

The Labor Party opposes the current trend of the talks and says that first, agreement should be reached with the Palestinians about the fate of the occupied territories and their autonomy. This should be followed up by talks with Jordan, Lebanon, and then Syria. In reality, the Labor Party wants the bilateral talks to be split.

Thus, the victory of the Labor Party in the Israeli parliamentary elections does not, on any account, mean a reduction in the expansionist views of the Zionist regime. Apart from the illegitimacy of that regime and its parties and the results of its elections, that regime continues to see itself in the grip of the cold war as if the Berlin Wall was still standing.

Afghanistan as 'Master of Its Own Destiny' Viewed

NC2306120292 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY EDITION in English 11 Jun 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Let the Afghans Decide"]

[Text] Afghanistan has always had a plethora of ethnic groups, tribes, subtribes, clans and families. There are complex divisions, tribal loyalties and linguistic differences. Geo-political proximity has its own peculiar role to play in how one group evaluates a given situation. The state, in various periods of Afghan history, has traditionally been weak. During 13 years of war, Soviet-installed juntas tried to control one of the poorest countries in the world through the gun barrel. All failed in this venture but succeeded in dragging the Muslim country into a seemingly bottomless sea of troubles.

Anarchy and chaos in today's Afghanistan is neither surprising nor unpredictable. Transition from war to peace is always a great challenge requiring broad political foresight, patience, perseverance, wise decisions and the will to create as little hostility as possible. For any war-devastated society, dangers loom on every corner as opportunists and greedy power-brokers seek to manipulate weaknesses of governments. It is the duty of statesmen to identify such ailments and keep internal agents of discord under watchful eyes.

Interim President Sebghatollah Mojaddedi has more than a daunting task ahead. The widely respected professor is indeed responsible for, maybe, the world's most thankless job. Given the huge ethnic diversity of his country and the devastation inherited from nearly 15 years of social, economic and political corruption of subservient rulers, his government's conduct has had little appeal and is considered weak by those who analyze from the outside. It would simply be unrealistic to claim that another post-war leader would have fared better or commanded more influence.

Amid the prevailing climate of uncertainty and instability in Kabul, news came about sectarian clashes, adding another formidable dimension to the already fragile situation. Fighting between the Shiite Hezb-e-Vahdat and the Sunni Ettehad-e Eslami faction left 100 people dead and 400 wounded. Condemning the violent street battles, Mr. Mojaddedi hinted at the possibility of hidden hands in the fighting and abductions of rival cadres.

As Mojahedin factions rushed to divide the capital into their own areas of influence, the head of the six-week-old government appealed for understanding and vigilance. "Some miscreants have intruded in our ranks and we should be watchful of their designs," he said on Kabul television.

It would be very unfortunate if the political and military leaders of the Mojahedin permit further sedition and division in their ranks. For more than 10 years they enjoyed the good offices of Pakistan, China, Saudi Arabia, the U.S. and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Established on humanitarian grounds, most of these countries and others helped the Mojahedin to end their country's forced occupation and live with dignity. Now that has been achieved, even though real peace and justice has yet to come.

With little left to destroy in Afghanistan, Mr. Mojaddedi and aides should make it known clearly that the Afghan nation wants to be the master of its own destiny. Friends who helped before the communist regime expired will be doing a great service to Afghanistan by not getting

involved in its internal affairs. The oppressed country has a long way to go and a future to decide. Allies should let the new leaders sort out their differences without having to worry about the burden of past friendship. The custodial attitude in some outside lobbies could turn out to be pretty harmful.

Reports on Death of Afghanistan's Dostam Viewed

LD2206122692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0953 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Although Afghan mojahedin sources denied reports that the plane carrying General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam, commander of Uzbek militia, and others accompanying him from Nawaz Sharif to Kabul crashed and killed all the passengers—including General Dostam—reporting this news in itself can have a negative effect on relations between the various mojahedin groups. It could jeopardize political efforts by the mojahedin to solve their internal difficulties, including the peaceful transition of power to the Jihad Council headed by Borhanoddin Rabbani after the two-month period headed by Sebghatollah Mojaddedi. [passage omitted]

The announcement that General Dostam is dead and the subsequent denial in the current sensitive climate is a result of the different views regarding the role of the Uzbek paramilitary force in the future government. There is as yet no basic agreement on this matter. The fact that this issue has added to the difficulties on the eve of the transition of power from Mojaddedi to Borhanoddin Rabbani should be noted. Without doubt, discussions of the transition of power to a new government and the recent remarks by Mr. Mojaddedi to the effect that he will not transfer power to the Jihad Council based on the Peshawar agreement has created serious difficulties for the 14-year jihad of Afghanistan. It seems that if a quick solution is not found, there will be no guarantees against a recurrence of war and conflict in Kabul over the reins of political power.

The reality is that two months after the Peshawar agreement, there is as yet no clear indication of the constituents of the future government that was supposed to gradually take its final form after the interim government. Mojaddedi's opposition to the transition of power can be explained for this very same reason. The threat by certain mojahedin groups to wage war in Kabul simply because Mojaddedi is not ready to transfer power does not seem justifiable.

Without doubt, armed conflict is not the way to resolve the differences of views, especially in this situation. The way forward is one of political negotiations in a calm climate. Considering the experiences of the past few months, it seems that Afghan leaders should chose the peaceful path.

Nepal & Bhutan

Government To Sign UN Plan on Narcotics Control

BK2306150292 Hong Kong AFP in English 1444 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Kathmandu, June 23 (AFP)—Nepal will sign the U.N.'s drug control master plan aimed at stopping international drug trafficking and protecting its citizens from drug addiction, Home Minister Sher Bahadur Deupa said Tuesday.

"The misuse of drugs has affected every country in the world, including Nepal, and we must control it effectively," Deupa said during a program titled "The Narcotics Problem—A Threat to International Order."

"In spite of the alertness of the Nepalese Government and its administration," Deupa added, "it has not yet been able to control drug trafficking and (drug) use effectively."

He said that since the advent of democratic government in Nepal, the country had taken a number of serious steps to stop drug trafficking and drug use by Nepalese youths.

U.S. Ambassador to Nepal Julia Chang Bloch, also speaking during the program, said Washington greatly appreciated Nepal's decision to sign the U.N. agreement, which involves creation of a special enforcement unit assigned to stopping the movement of illicit drugs into and through Nepal.

She said the United States was eager to help Nepal through training and the exchange of information. There are an estimated 10,000 drug addicts in Kathandu alone, and U.N drug program representative Jerrold Berke said most were under 30 years of age.

"No country in the world can afford the economic and social costs of a serious drug abuse problem among its population, especially not a country like Nepal, which is already economically and socially taxed by the need to improve the standard of living and quality of life of a large segment of its population," Berke said.

Pakistan

Sharif-Rao Rio Talks Lowered 'Negative Impact'

BK2406154692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] The meeting between Premier Nawaz Sharif and Prime Minister Narasimha Rao in Rio de Janeiro has helped reduce the negative impact resulting from the recent incidents involving Pakistani and Indian diplomats. A Foreign Office spokesman said that the two prime ministers also decided to hold a sixth round of foreign secretary-level talks the date of which will be fixed through bilateral diplomatic negotiations. The spokesman said that during the talks, Prime Minister

Mohammad Nawaz Sharif reaffirmed the Pakistani Government's desire to establish tension-free relations with India based on equality and cooperation and to resolve all pending issues, especially the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

Sharif Justifies Army Action in Sindh

BK2406143592 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] The PML [Pakistan Muslim League] parliamentary party in the Senate has unanimously endorsed the steps taken by the federal government to restore law and order in Sindh. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, in Islamabad today. The PML Senators assured the government of their fullest support in its efforts to rid the province of terrorists, dacoits, kidnappers, and such other criminals.

Briefing the senators on the recent developments in Sindh, the prime minister recalled his earlier assertion that the decision to launch an army action in Sindh is in the best interest of the country. Rejecting political expediency the government has opted for a course of action that is solely targeted at saving the people of Sindh from bandits, dacoits, and kidnappers. In asking the army to undertake an operation at the request of the provincial government, the federal government has made it clear that the entire operation would be completely nonpartisan. He said culprits and criminals irrespective of their political sympathies and affiliation would be dealt with even-handedly.

The prime minister said the growing incidents of terrorism, dacoities, and kidnappings in the province had brought all developmental activities to a complete halt. A large number of factories and industrial units in urban areas were shut down while agricultural activities in rural areas of the province have been badly affected during the last few years. No fresh investment is forthcoming in the province and in fact Sindh has been experiencing a negative rate of growth. It is in this background and out of its natural concern for the people of Sindh and particularly the poorer sections of the population that the government decided to take recourse to an action which he was confident would help restore to the province its proverbial peace and economic dynamism.

Earlier, the meeting offered fateha [prayers] for the late Senators Ghulam Farooq, Gulab Khan, and Dr. Nasiruddin Jogezai.

Sharif Receives Afghanistan's Rabbani in Islamabad

BK2406143792 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] The chief of Jam'iyat-e Eslami-e Afghanistan and a prominent leader of the leadership council, Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, called on the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, in Islamabad today. They discussed the developing situation in Afghanistan and exchanged views regarding the status of implementation of the Peshawar agreement of 24th April this year. The two leaders agreed that the Peshawar accord represented broad consensus of Afghan leaders and that the advancement of the political process initiated as a result of the accord was in the best interest of the Afghan people. They also affirmed the need for all parties to exercise the utmost restraint and refrain from any further violence giving a chance to the peaceful political process. The two leaders agreed that only through establishment of a stable peace the world community could be actively involved in the process of rehabilitation and reconstruction of the war-torn country. The prime minister reaffirmed Pakistan's readiness to give all possible assistance for rebuilding of the devastated Afghan economy.

Rockets Fired at Afghan Refugee Camp

BK2506110292 Hong Kong AFP in English 1041 GMT 25 Jun 92

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, June 25 (AFP)—More than a dozen rockets were fired at an Afghan refugee camp in Pakistan on Thursday, but officials here denied earlier reports from police that three people died and seven were injured.

City police chief Tanvirul Haq said after a visit to the Shamshatu refugee camp near here that most of the rockets landed at uninhabited sites outside the camp.

The few that landed inside did not burst and were defused causing no harm, the official said.

It was not known who targeted the camp, home to hundreds of Afghan refugees.

Sharif Receives UAE President's Envoy, Message

BK2406121092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Mr. Khamis Busle al-Hamzai, the special envoy of the UAE [United Arab Emirates] president, called on the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, in Islamabad today. He delivered a special message of the UAE president, Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, to the prime minister. He also discussed matters relating to mutual and bilateral interests with the prime minister.